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CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

Academy slaps 10-year Oscars ban on Smith

This is the Academy's first action against the star after he slapped presenter Chris Jordan at the 94th Oscars. The Academy regretted that the event was overshadowed by the "unacceptable and harmful behaviour" of Smith. It also apologised for its handling of the situation, allowing Smith to remain at the venue. Smith will remain eligible to be nominated for and win awards in the future. He will not be allowed to show up to accept them.

IMRAN CAUGHT AND BOWLED

Loses no-trust motion after high drama; speaker, deputy resign minutes before voting

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

Security personnel at the parliament in Islamabad | AFP

PAKISTAN Prime Minister Imran Khan lost the no-trust motion against his government well past midnight on Saturday after a day-long drama. Just before the crucial voting took place in the National Assembly, Speaker Asad Qaiser and Deputy Speaker Qasim Suri had put in their papers. And, Ayaz Sadiq of PML-N took over the National Assembly's proceedings.

After dodging Parliament the entire day, the process of no-confidence vote began three minutes before midnight (Pak time), the Supreme Court's deadline. Imran's exit has been so unceremonious and dramatic that it won't be forgotten for a long time. "Imran Khan tried to compel the Speaker and Deputy Speaker to resist Vote of No Confidence and defy Supreme Court and failed. Instead, they chose to resign in a show of loyalty to Khan instead of the constitution. But, Khan didn't resign himself. Instead was dishonourably voted out. In the end, the Cabinet deserted him," tweeted Najam Sethi, renowed Pakistani journalist.

While Imran chose not to attend Parliament, he tried his best to evade being ousted, which included having meetings with his Cabinet Ministers. Reports suggest that he even contemplated getting the army chief sacked, though he met General Qamar Javed Bajwa earlier in the day, who reportedly asked Khan to behave.

Meanwhile, the scene outside the Parliament saw prison vehicles parked outside. Government officials had stopped taking orders from Khan and I&B Minister Choudhary Fawad Hussain changed his Twitter account bio to ex-I&B minister.

All airports in Pakistan have been issued an alert that no government officials can travel without a NOC, an alert has been issued at hospitals as well. Imran's arrest can't be ruled out. Earlier in the day, Imran had also set three conditions for conducting the vote.

NIRANI: INVESTORS NOT GOING ANYWHERE

Industries Minister Murugesh Nirani ruled out any impact on Karnataka's ability to attract investment and termed the recent communal developments as a flicker that will fade out soon. FULL INTERVIEW: P4

WITH THIS ISSUE **BEYOND IMRAN** PLUS 12 PAGES MAGAZINE

BJP brass advises CM to focus on development

RAJESH K THAKUR & DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ New Delhi, Bengaluru

THE BJP central leadership, perhaps not too happy with the recent spate of controversies consuming Karnataka, is learnt to have advised Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai to make a wider outreach to the people of the state on development work started by the State and Central governments.

Over the past few months, a string of communally sensitive issues have been raised – the hijab row, ban on halal meat, boycott of Muslim vendors and ban on loudspeakers for azaan — with Bommai remaining mostly silent on the controversies.

Bommai, who was recently in the national capital, met BJP President JP Nadda and Union ministers and senior leaders Rajnath Singh and Nirmala Sitharaman, but reportedly did not get an appointment with Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Yet, former CM Jagadish Shettar managed to meet Shah on Thursday evening — just a few hours after Bommai left Delhi.

Shettar's meeting with Shah sparked speculation whether Karnataka will go to polls under the leadership of Bommai or someone else. However, Shettar described his meeting with Shah as "just a courtesy call". Sources in the BJP said: "Dekhate jaiye aage aage hota hai kya (Just wait and see what happens next)."

On Saturday, party sources said Bommai was told to tamp down on controversies and make all-out efforts to focus on the budget promises. A reliable source in the BJP said that Shah had, during his recent visit to Karnataka, reportedly pulled up Bommai and advised him to concentrate on implementation of the budget. P4

Central agencies to probe bomb threat mails for terror angle

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka home department has written to Google to find out the IP addresses of the e-mails from which hoax bomb threats were reportedly made to 14 schools in and around the city. All the mails, with similar content, were sent from different IDs at different points of time on Friday.

City Police Commissioner Kamal Pant said there was a delay in obtaining information about the IP addresses as the e-mail portal is based in a foreign country. The mail is suspected to have originated from the US, but it could be a method the cyber crooks used to fool investigators.

Reacting to the case developments, Home Minister Araga Jnanendra on Saturday said that central agencies are also looking into the bomb hoax threats received by multiple private schools in and around the city, via different e-mail IDs.

"Central agencies have stepped in to look into the terror angle, and whether the mails have come from outside. They will also collect details from our investigation," Jnanendra said. P5

Covaxin, Covishield prices slashed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

PRIVATE hospitals will now be able to procure Covid-19 vaccines—Covaxin and Covisheild—for a reduced price of ₹225. The announcement by Bharat Biotech and the Serum Institute of India comes a day before the booster vaccination drive is to be thrown open to all adults.

"We are pleased to announce that after discussion with the Centre, SII has decided to revise the price of COVISHIELD for private hospitals from ₹600 to ₹225 per dose. We once again commend this decision from the Centre to open precautionary dose to all 18+," CEO of Serum Institute of India (SII) Adar Poonawalla tweeted on Saturday, hours after a meeting with the Centre. P7

DIPIKA

Less than 6 months after giving birth to twins, Dipika Pallikal won the mixed doubles & women's doubles title at World Doubles C'ships P11

EXPRESS READ

7 held on charges of raping 16-yr-old girl

Bengaluru: The police have arrested seven persons, including two minors, in connection with the gang rape of a 16-year-old minor girl, reported in Yelahanka. The police are on the lookout for one more accused. P3

Another BMTC bus catches fire

Bengaluru: Nearly 35 passengers of a BMTC had a narrow escape when the bus which they were travelling in caught fire in front of SJP Polytechnic near KR Circle on Seshadri Road on Saturday afternoon. P3

ALMANAC TODAY
• Sunday : 10/04/2022 • Year: Shubhakrutha • Ayana: Uttharayana • Ritu: Vasantha • Masa: Chaitra • Paksha: Shukla • Tithi: Navami 11.51 pm • Nakshatra: Pushyami 3.52 am • Moon in Simha Rashi • Rahukaala: 04:30 pm to 06:00 pm • Gulikakala: 03:00 pm to 04:30 pm • Yamaganda: 12:00 pm to 01:30 pm

WEATHER
MIN 22°C | MAX 34°C
FORECAST
Breaks of sun late

Sunrise	6.10 am
Sunset	6.31 pm
Moonrise	1.02 pm
Moonset	1.28 am

Meet Bengaluru's 'Sparrow Man', 72-yr-old Edwin Joseph, whose life revolves around the winged visitors

Once a common winged visitor on the streets of Bengaluru, the sparrows are slowly disappearing

FRIEND OF THE WINGS

DONNA EVA @Bengaluru

IN an inconspicuous corner of Bagalur Layout in Bengaluru, lives the city's 'Sparrow Man'. Edwin Joseph, 72, is visited by a host of sparrows, squirrels, a few pigeons and even bulbuls, and he is popular both as the sparrow whisperer and a Good Samaritan.

For almost 15 years now, Edwin has woken up to the chirping of sparrows at his window. He feeds them millets and sometimes khara mixture, rice, roti, and anything that is cooked for the household. "I have tried to get an expert to show me how to improve taking care of the birds and to identify them properly apart from the knowledge in guidebooks... but I've had no luck so far... so I do what I can," he says.

Much of the work done for the sparrows and other wildlife creatures he gets in his little slice of old Bengaluru was done by him. Overhead, Edwin has multiple feeders, filled to the brim with millets. Below them, plates with millet husks discarded by the little birds. During the monsoon, he attaches a wooden plank to the feeders to give the birds a place to sit peacefully.

Within the same compound is another house that he rents out. Along the bottom of its balcony is a place where birds built nests. Pointing towards a few coconut shells hanging from the ceiling, he says, "I got those sent to me by a Class 5 boy. He told me that he had heard of my sparrows and made a few nests out of coconut shells."

Outside, there are large pots for small trees, enough to create a sizable canopy for the sparrows to hide in and play. There's a fenced shelter to prevent airborne threats like hawks. "It is interesting. I know when to run out and chase the hawk away because the minute it appears, the chirping stops," he laughs.

To expand the greenery on the roof of the sparrow enclave he has created on the front portion of his house, his daughter and grandchildren has set up green bottles hanging from the shelter, housing small creepers.

A stranger to no one, Edwin has no end to the help he gets. Everyone walking past his house receives a friendly hello and wave and reciprocates. He jokes with the girls from the local government school who get spoken English classes from him. In addition, he also teaches at local schools, feeds the poor and takes care of homeless senior citizens. "This shouldn't be considered charity work. It is our duty as citizens to serve others," he elaborates.

Alongside his career as a master skilled technician at Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML), Edwin was also a star athlete having won several national and state-wide awards in running and football. Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, he also coached local children.

Similarly, as a part of the local Sagayarapuram ward committee and president of his street's resident welfare association, he has undertaken several other works not only for the betterment of the birds and local wildlife but also for his neighbours.

One of his major concerns is the disappearance of sparrows from Bengaluru. "We used to get around 200 of them each day... now the number has dipped to 80. Issues like installation of private mobile phone towers have aggravated the problem," he rues. For months, Edwin campaigned to remove a private mobile phone tower installed in the area. The installation of towers contributes to slight radiation levels that have a definite effect on the local bird population with radiation affecting smaller birds.

After months of following up with local authorities and confronting the installation crew himself, he successfully stopped the installation of the tower.

"Government officials always vow to help in the run up to the International Sparrow Day. But interest always dies down. It is a lovely bird. Why the government isn't bothered about saving them is unknown. It is disheartening. Sometimes, families come here and the parents point out to their children saying, 'look this is a sparrow' because the children have not seen the beautiful birds before."

While still hopeful, Edwin is unsure if the sparrow population will last more than five years. "There needs to be more government involvement and education among the youth on identifying and showing them the wonders of the birds," he concludes.

> *We used to see around 200 sparrows each day... now the number has dipped to 80. Issues like installation of private mobile phone towers have aggravated the problem*
> – Edwin Joseph

Edwin Joseph

Honeycomb comes home

NGO Swastha Centre is training people with disabilities in beekeeping, giving them a source of income & sense of independence

PRAJNA GR @ Madikeri

IN the misty hill country of Kodagu, the bee offers hope. Apiculture has been one of the main economic activities of the region, known for its coffee, pepper and tourism, while Coorg honey is said to be rich in medicinal properties.

Tapping into the ancient activity of bee-rearing, the Swastha Centre for Special Education and Rehabilitation in Kodagu is striving to establish a sustainable society for persons with disabilities, especially in the rural areas of the district.

Started in the year 2003, Swastha Institution is managed by The Coorg Foundation Trust. While educating students with special abilities has been the focus of the institution, it is also involved in providing vocational training to enable the rehabilitation of children. In a country where a day is observed each year to promote the wellness and rights of persons with disabilities, it can be challenging to create an inclusive environment for them, and keep it going too.

The community-based rehabilitation initiative of the institution is empowering many persons with disabilities (PwD) in the rural parts of Kodagu. What is unique is that the institution has introduced beekeeping and is training them in the vocation, said to be the first-of-its-kind initiative in the country.

"Receiving support from the Horticulture department, the institution first trained 25 students in beekeeping in 2017," explained Arathy Somaiah, director of the institution. Though the students were trained in the vocation, opportunities to earn from it were bleak.

Hence, the institution looked to establish an agrarian system to create opportunities for self-employment, which also promotes economic growth. "The institution sought help from NABARD, and the 25 students were further trained for three years. Beehive boxes were handed over to them, and the first bee harvest was sold last year. The students earned incentives and have now set up beehive boxes in their homes," said Arathy. To ensure that the students don't face any challenges in beekeeping at home, the institution extended training to their parents too.

Persons with disabilities were identified across Karike, Bhagamandala, Sampaje and Madenadu villages, trained in beekeeping and given beehive boxes. "There is a government scheme where beehive boxes are provided at subsidised rates if residents provide RTC documents of the land. Through this scheme, beehive boxes were given to them, and they were trained by the horticulture department," explained Arathy.

The harvest from the community rearing in the district was collected by the institution; it was processed, purified and bottled at the Research and Development sector of Tata Coffee. "The honey extracted and processed is free of adulteration, and marketed under the Swastha label. The profits are paid to the bee rearers. A trained staffer from the institution visits the rural areas once a month to help them handle the work of beekeeping, and helps them in the cleaning process. Once the harvest is ready, they help them extract and collect the honey. They have the option to market the harvest through Swastha or any other means," she shared.

While the beekeeping initiative is running successfully, the institution is looking at providing them with holistic training. It aims to identify persons with disabilities in all the taluks, and establish a 'Beekeeping Society of Persons with Disabilities' soon in the district.

The institution also plans to train them to plant bee-friendly trees and shrubs in rural areas. Kodagu has a large number of massive bee-nesting trees. "The establishment of the beekeeping society will ensure sustainable and inclusive living. It will help generate self-employment, rural employment and economic growth," concluded Arathy.

The establishment of the beekeeping society will ensure sustainable and inclusive living, says Arathy Somaiah, director, Swastha Institution | EXPRESS

> *Receiving support from the Horticulture department, the institution first trained 25 students in beekeeping in 2017*
> Arathy Somaiah, director, Swastha Institution

Citizens highlight road on lake, tag PM Modi

ENS @Bengaluru

WITH the on-going issue regarding Pattandur Agrahara Lake, citizens allege that the construction a road on the lake's buffer zone is an act of lawlessness.

Sandeep Anirudhan, is one of the citizens who has been campaigning since 2017 for the stoppage of the construction. He said that despite four notice including from the BBMP the construction works have not stopped. "The BBMP engineers are not stopping the work as they face pressure from local MLAs to continue work, this is despite receiving notices from their own department. It is an act of lawlessness and shows contempt both for the government and the citizens," he said. The citizens have been religiously documenting the developments in the case. They have tagged Prime Minister Narendra Modi on social media regarding the issue and on Saturday even the Rashtriy Swayamsevak Sangh was tagged.

The residents have appealed to every department and have filed an interlocutory application (IA) with the Karnataka HC for a stay on the construction. They have also filed a complaint with the ACB. The residents have garnered support from a number of political parties, most recently from AAP. The party had organised a protest on their behalf on April 6.

Child panel to file suo motu case in bomb threat case

SHILPA P @Bengaluru:

THE Karnataka Commission for the Protection of Child Rights is taking up a suo motu case under the Juvenile Justice Act on the bomb threat mails sent to 14 educational institutions in Bengaluru on Friday, interim chairperson Dr Jayashree said here on Saturday. The Commission will also conduct a parallel probe over the creation of panic, anxiety and fear among children, she said.

The Associated Managements of English Medium Schools in Karnataka (AMEMSK) is writing to Home Minister Araga Jnanendra, urging him to book the accused under the Juvenile Justice Act since there was threat to children, and to intensify security for educational institutions, AMEMSK General Secretary D Shashikumar said.

Child rights expert Vasudev Sharma said since there was a deliberate attempt to create fear psychosis and panic among children, the case should be booked under Section 75 of the JJ Act. Schools should invite experts from Nimhans and Childline to counsel parents and children who were traumatised, he said.

Mansoor Ali Khan, member, board of management, Delhi Public School, Bengaluru and Mysuru, said that CBSE and CISCE Board exams for Class 10 and 12 start from April 25-26, and schools have taken adequate security measures, but police should intensify vigilance.

AMEMSK is also appealing to private schools holding classes to cope with lessons missed during the pandemic, to declare holidays so that children and teachers get a break. "Private schools in Bengaluru are either having regular classes, special classes or summer camps. Having regular school when children of other schools are enjoying a vacation, is breach of their right. There is a learning gap and loss of learning, but children also need a break," Shashikumar said.

Khan said holidays will be declared from Wednesday for Delhi Public School.

Child protection policy not implemented

Child Rights Trust director Vasudev Sharma pointed out that most schools have failed to implement the model child protection policy drawn up by the Department of Women and Child Development. Had schools implemented it, they would have been better prepared to handle the issue. The policy has guidelines on protection of children, including police verification of each staffer, he said

> **Having regular school when children of other schools are enjoying a vacation, is breach of their right**— D Shashikumar, General Secretary, Associated Managements of English Medium Schools in Karnataka

EXPRESS READ

Meat sale, slaughter banned on Ramanavami

Bengaluru: Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), in an order, prohibited the sale and slaughter of meat on Ramanavami, April 10, under its limits. While many messages condemning the decision are being circulated on social media, BBMP officials have said it is an annual affair and a routine announcement. Slaughtering of animals was permitted only till 10 am on Saturday morning and will only resume from Monday morning.

Trust adopts 92 animals at Bannerghatta

Bengaluru: The Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP) management announced that Ashraya Hastha Trust has adopted 92 animals for one year as a part of their animal welfare project. Dinesh K, trustee of the trust, handed over a cheque to the BBP management and also visited the feeding unit of the animals. The members of the trust also interacted with the zoo staffers to understand their daily challenges.

Actor Ravichandran to be conferred with honorary doctorate at BCU's first convocation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

BENGALURU City University Vice-Chancellor Prof Lingaraja Gandhi announced that Kannada actor **V Ravichandran** will be one of three people to receive a honorary doctorate at the university's first convocation.

The Kannada actor will be conferred an honorary D.Litt for his contributions to the field of cinema, alongside M R Jaishankar, who will be receiving his D.Litt for his social service contributions. Renowned pulmonologist at Manipal hospital, Dr Satyanarayana will be conferred with a D.Sc for his work in the field of medicine.

Speaking at a press conference on Saturday, Prof Lingaraja Gandhi announced the names of the three people to be awarded honorary doctorates, alongside 70 gold medallists. The convocation to be held on April 11 will be the university's first since its establishment in 2017.

A total of 41,768 students, comprising of one undergraduate batch and two postgraduate batches (2018-20 and 2019-21) will be awarded their degree certificates.

Out those graduating, 70 students will be given gold medals and cash prizes valued at Rs 20,000 rupees. Thirty-two students each from the two postgraduate batches and 6 students from the undergraduate batch have been announced as gold medallists. A B.Com student from Sri Bhagavan Mahavir Jain Evening College, Purva N Gandhi has won three gold medals. Interestingly, according to statistics provided by the university, almost 65% of graduates will be girl students, while 35% are males.

DURATION OF PANDEMIC	CASES REPORTED	DEATHS	DISCHARGES
2 YEARS, 32 DAYS	■ 46 ◄ 77	■ 0 | ◄ 1	■ 75 | ◄ 44
	TALLY	POSITIVITY RATE	MORTALITY RATE
		■ 6.00% | ◄ 6.01%	■ 1.01% | ◄ 1.01%
■ TODAY	■ 39,45,946	ACTIVE CASES ■ 1,430	RECOVERY RATE ■ 98.94%
◄ YESTERDAY	◄ 39,45,900	◄ 1,459	◄ 98.94%

B'luru Urban: 39	Chamarajanagar: 0	Dharwad: 4	Kolar: 0	Shivamogga: 0
B'luru Rural: 0	Chikkaballapur: 0	Gadag: 0	Koppal: 0	Tumakuru: 1
Bagalkot: 0	Chikkamagaluru: 0	Hassan: 0	Mandya: 0	Udupi: 0
Ballari: 0	Chitradurga: 0	Haveri: 0	Mysuru: 0	U Kannada: 0
Belagavi: 2	D Kannada: 0	Kalaburagi: 0	Raichur: 0	Vijayapura: 0
Bidar: 0	Davanagere: 2	Kodagu: 0	Ramanagara: 0	Yadgir: 0

7, including 2 minors, held for raping 16-year-old girl

Filmed, blackmailed girl; 25-year-old boyfriend is the main accused

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

IN yet another horrific crime against women, the North East division police have arrested seven persons, including two minors, in connection with the gang rape of a 16-year-old minor girl. The police are on the lookout for one more accused.

The incident occurred in Yelahanka and a police complaint was filed on April 5.

The victim was reportedly in love with a 25-year-old man who allegedly took her to his residence in Yelahanka and raped her. His friend, who was filming the incident, also raped her after blackmailing her.

Both of them then shared the video with their friends who also allegedly raped her by blackmailing her saying that the video would be made viral.

Going by the change in her behaviour as she was always crying, her parents persuaded her and learnt about the horrific incident.

"Among the accused two are juveniles. The main accused is the victim's 25-year-old lover. The case is still under investigation as we are checking if there are more accused. The mobile phones with which they shared the videos have been seized. The phones will be sent to cyber police to check if the content has been shared with anyone else. The incident came to light after the girl returned home crying and her mother questioned her. But the latter fearing wrath from her parents initially told them that she had eaten spicy kebabs following which she was crying," said the police.

After her mother persuaded the victim, the gang rape incident came to light. Her parents immediately approached the police.

The police are checking the birth proofs of the two juveniles to confirm whether they are still minors.

The Yelahanka police have registered a case under different sections, including POCSO.

A fire personnel tries to douse the fire after a BMTC bus caught fire at KR Circle in Bengaluru on Saturday. All 35 passengers aboard the bus escaped unhurt | EXPRESS

THIRD BMTC BUS UP IN FLAMES IN 79 DAYS!

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THIRTY-FIVE passengers of a Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) had a narrow escape when the bus which they were travelling in caught fire in front of SJP Polytechnic near KR Circle on Seshadri Road on Saturday afternoon.

This is the third incident involving the BS4 midi BMTC buses since the last three months. The bus (route number 43B of depot number 20) was heading towards Vidyanagar from Majestic when the fire broke out. The visuals of the bus in flames and thick smoke have gone viral. None of the passengers were injured. The driver, who was reportedly the first to see the smoke inside the engine bonnet, alerted the conductor and the passengers and all of them hurriedly alighted the bus. Within minutes the bus caught fire. Soon after the incident, the fire control room was informed and a fire tender from Seshadri Road was pressed into service.

It may be recalled that on February 1, another BMTC in which 25 passengers were travelling in had caught fire near Nanda theatre. On January 21, another BMTC bus with 25 passengers caught fire near the Makkalakoota in Chamarajpet area.

Immediately after the first two incidents, the BMTC had stopped the operation of all the 186 midi buses that were procured in 2014 by Ashok Leyland. There was a joint inspection carried out by the technical team of Ashok Leyland and the mechanical engineering division of the BMTC to check the fitness of these buses. The buses which were found to be fit were sent on route. The BMTC has around 340 midi buses which are operated in the interior parts of the city on smaller roads.

"The bus which caught fire on Saturday is also the same model as the buses involved in the two previous incidents. There is a problem with the design of the starter assembly. Suddenly there will be short circuit in the starter assembly which results in fire. After the first two cases, all midi buses were checked and those found to be fit were operated after the change in the faulty starters. The R&D team of Ashok Leyland will be inspecting on Monday and have been asked to rectify the issue. It is totally a design problem as the starters have been designed by the manufacturers", said a BMTC official.

The jurisdictional police have registered a case.

Parkinson's among youth on the rise

SHILPA P @ Bengaluru

GENETICS, poor quality of life, stress, sleep deprivation, environmental factors are leading to increase in the incidence of Parkinson's disease among youngsters, particularly among the IT professionals as they spend 12 to 14 hours in front of machines.

The symptoms have also aggravated among those suffering from Parkinson's since they were confined to home due to the pandemic.

Dr Prashanth LK, Parkinson's disease and Movement disorders specialist at the Center for Parkinson's disease and movement disorders, Manipal hospitals, Bengaluru informed this during an interaction with the media on Saturday, ahead of World Parkinson's Day.

He pointed that incidents of Parkinson's have increased to 300 to 400 per lakh in the past two decades, while it was prominently found only in Western countries, mainly among those above 60 years.

Now, it is found among those between 20 and 40 years. According to a research conducted in Bengaluru, Mumbai and Kolkata, by Dr Prashanth LK , Hrishikesh Kumar, Pettarusp M Wadia, Uday Muthane, 65 per cent of the people coming to movement disorder clinics had Parkinson's disorders, Dr Prashanth said. He said that they need dedicated funding for specific disorders to conduct meaningful research.

Min: Booster dose for all to strengthen Covid fight

ENS @ Bengaluru

HEALTH and Family Welfare Minister Dr K Sudhakar said the booster dose of Covid-19 vaccine, for those aged above 18 years, will be another step towards strengthening the battle against the pandemic.

The precautionary dose of the vaccine can be taken by those who have completed nine months, or 39 weeks, after the second dose of vaccination, he told reporters on Saturday.

Currently, the first, second and precautionary doses of vaccines are being given to healthcare and frontline workers as well as those above 60 years of age at government vaccination centres. This will be accelerated further, he said.

He also informed that as per data, Karnataka has administered 10.47 crore doses of Covid-19 vaccine. Among the total population eligible for the precautionary dose, 14 lakh (57.6 per cent) have been vaccinated, he said. Of those above 18 years of age, the state has administered more than 4.97 crore of the first dose vaccine. And it has completed administering the second dose of the vaccine to 4.76 crore people (97.4 per cent).

Among those aged between 15 and 17 years, Karnataka has administered 5,23,05,424 (100.4 per cent) of the first dose, and 4,97,08,909 (95.4 per cent) of the second dose. Also the state has administered 13,27,985 first dose of vaccines to children aged between 12 and 14 years. The vaccination for the second dose for this age group will start shortly, he added.

Pvt hospitals can create slots on CoWIN

More than 800 private hospitals in Karnataka, including 100 in Bengaluru, have geared up to administer booster doses to those above the age of 18 from Sunday. They already have adequate doses of the vaccines, and many have even ordered for additional doses, according to Dr Rajashekar Y L, secretary, Private Hospitals and Nursing Homes Association, Karnataka. Asked about many people reluctant to take the booster dose as Covid cases have dropped, Dr Rajashekar said, "Firstly, the booster dose will retain the benefits of the first and second doses. Though the cases have come down, they are sporadic (spread around randomly), so they will be well protected with the booster dose vaccine. A vaccine takes four to six weeks to be effective. So with the prediction of fourth wave by June, it is better to take it," he said.

EXPRESS READ

Undertrial charged with rape, murder, ends life in jail

Bengaluru: A 31-year-old undertrial prisoner died by suicide inside the Parappana Agrahara central prison at 5.25 am on Saturday. The police have identified the deceased as T Deepu, 31, a resident of Athibele. He was arrested on charges of raping and killing a three-year-old girl. The Athibele police arrested him and he was remanded in judicial custody on March 28. "He used a bedsheet to hang from the bathroom window of the new quarantine jail. He is married. The victim has written on his hand saying 'miss you Jyothi and to excuse him'," said the police. ENS

KARNATAKA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION
CENTRAL OFFICES, STORES AND PURCHASE DEPT, K.H. ROAD, SHANTHINAGAR, BENGALURU-560027

NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO 1 Dated: 09/04/2022

Tenders (Pre-qualification and or commercial offers) through e-procurement portal (http://eproc.karnataka. gov.in) are invited for supply the following goods:

Tender No	Nomenclature of Items/ Services	Tender Value in Crores Rs. (Approx)	Last date for submission of tender @17.00Hrs
Short Term tender			
G-01/22-23	Procurement of Pre-cured Tread Materials and Allied Materials on CPKM Basis	30.00	16/04/2022

Further any addendum / corrigendum in respect of change in calendar of events, specification, scope, other tender terms and conditions etc, will be uploaded / published through e-portal only.

NOTE:- Interested suppliers need to register in the e-procurement portal. For further information log into http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in. In case of further assistance, contact e-procurement cell (Phone .No.080–22230960, 080–22234115). Interested suppliers may also contact e-procurement cell for training on bid submission. Mail to eprocurementhelpdesk@gmail.com for further information if required.

Sd/-
CONTROLLER OF STORES & PURCHASES
(Tender Inviting Authority)

DIPR/CP/110/AKAR/22-23

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

ICICI Home Finance

Corporate Office: ICICI Home Finance Company Limited ICICI HFC Tower, Andheri - Kurla Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400059, India
Branch Office: ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd.,1st floor, No.181, Sundari Armadale, Whitefield Main Road, Whitefield, Bangalore- 560066

[See proviso to rule 8(6)]
Notice for sale of immovable assets

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd., will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is", as per the brief particulars given hereunder;

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower (s)/ Co Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Legal Heirs. Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price / Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Vijay Kumar G N (Borrower) Vickneswari P (Co-Borrower) Loan Account No. NHBNG00001299230	Site No 30, No 563/22P/30, Devalapura Village, Anugondanahalli Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, Bangalore-karnataka 562114	Rs. 69,18,392/- (As on April 08, 2022)	Rs. 1,11,27,000/- / Rs. 11,12,700/-	May 06, 2022 from 11:00 AM to 03:00 PM	May 10, 2022 from 02:00 PM to 03:00 PM

The online auction will be conducted on website **(URL Link- https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net/EPROC/)** of our auction agency Auction Tiger. The Mortgagors/ notice are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till **September 05, 2022** before **5.00 PM** else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) RTGS/ Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at **ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd.,1st floor, No.181, Sundari Armadale, Whitefield Main Road, Whitefield, Bangalore- 560066** on or before **September 05, 2022** before **04:00 PM.** Kindly note, in case prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer as per above mentioned time then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at**ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd.,1st floor, No.181, Sundari Armadale, Whitefield Main Road, Whitefield, Bangalore- 560066** before **05.00 PM.** Earnest Money Deposit Demand Draft (DD) should be from a Nationalised/Scheduled Bank in favourof **"ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd.- Auction"** payable at **Whitefield**

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Home Finance Company Limited on 7021072869.

The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit **https://www.icicihfc.com/**

Date: April 10, 2022
Place: Whitefield

Authorised Officer
ICICI Home Finance Company Limited

equitas Equitas Small Finance Bank

EQUITAS SMALL FINANCE BANK LTD
{Formerly Known As Equitas Finance Ltd}
Corporate Office: No.769, Spencer Plaza, 4th Floor, Phase-II, Anna Salai, Chennai, TN - 600 002

POSSESSION NOTICE (U/s. Rule 8 (1) - for immovable property)

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of M/s. Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest [Act, 2002 (54 of 2002)] and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with [Rule 3] of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice calling upon the below mentioned Borrowers to repay the total outstanding amount mentioned in the notice being within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. Since the below mentioned Borrowers having failed to repay the below stated amount within the stipulated time, notice is hereby given to the below mentioned borrowers and the public in general that, the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security interest Enforcement Rules, 2002. The Borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the schedule mentioned properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of M/s. Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited and further interest and other charges thereon." The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets."

Name of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Date of Possession
Branch : Peenya LAN No: SEPEEYA0162817 Borrowers: 1. MR.SAJJAD KHAN 2. MRS.SALMA BANU	All the piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing (Southern portion of Site No.40) Site No.40/A, Property No.19, Situated at Sonnappa Garden, Devarajeevnahalli Village, BBMP Ward No.61, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North tq, Bangalore, Measuring East to West 20 ft and North to South 15 ft, Total extent 300 Sq.ft. North by : Remaining portion of same site No.40, South by : Site No.66, East by : Site No.41, West by : passage, Measurement : East to West 20 ft and North to South 15 ft, Total 300 sq.ft. Situated at within the Sub-Registration District of Gandhinagara (Kacharakanahalli) and Registration District of Bangalore	21-06-2021 & Rs.570676/-	06.04.2022
Branch : R.T.Nagar LAN No: SERTNAG0245603 Borrowers: 1. MR.MUNIRAJU N 2. MRS.GOPAMMA 3. MR.NAGARAJ M	All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing property No.31 assessment No.95, Katha No.494, Situated at Chikkabanavara Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, North by : Property No.30 belongs to Venkatesh, South by : Property No.32 belongs to Yellappa & Gowramma, East by : Road, West by : Others property. Measurement : East to west 33ft, North to south 20ft, Total extent 660 sq.ft. Situated at within the Sub-Registration District of Madanayakanahalli Registration District of Bangalore.	21-06-2021 & Rs.473799/-	06.04.2022
Branch : R.T.Nagar LAN No: SERTNAG0240348 Borrowers: 1. Sadananda 2. Chandrakator	All that piece and parcel of the property bearing khaneshmari no 51, assessment no. 93/1, 93/2,95, situated at Laggere Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, now comes within the limits BBMP Ward No. 69 North by : Remaining Property of Narayanappa South by : property sold by chikkadasappa and grand childrens,East by : 10 ft Passage,West by : Road and andanappa's land,Measurement : East to West 20 ft, North to South 50 ft, Totally measuring 1000 sq. Ft Situated at within the Sub-Registration District fo Rajajinagaralaegns and Registration District of Bangalore	30-10-2021 & Rs.974794/-	06.04.2022
Branch : R.T.Nagar LAN No: SERTNAG0201768 Borrowers: 1. Mr. Micheal 2. Mrs. Leema Josephin 3. Mr. Dhansingh 4. Mr. Stalin	All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing site No. 161, assessment No. 10, Katha No. 237/49 New Katha No. 237/49/10 161, situated at Dodanna Nagar (Mission Compound), Kavalbyrasandra Bangalore Corporation, Old Wald No. 95 Now. BBMP war No. 47 North by Danells house South by 5 ft passage ,East by K.S. John's allotted Schedule "C" Property, West by Road Measurement East to West 30 ft; North to South 22.6 ft total extent of 678 sq. Ft Situated at within the Sub-Registration District of Gandhi Nagaram and Registration District of Bangalore	28-09-2021 & Rs.1096919/-	06.04.2022
Branch : Channapatna LAN No: SECNPTN0275500 Borrowers: 1. Lalitha 2. A. N. Somashekar	All the piece and parcel of the immovable Schedule Property No. 31-4-599-135, Katha No. KHB 1161, Situated at KHB LAYOUT, 5th Cross road, Block 4, Channapatna Town., Ramanagara Taluk, Ramanagar District, Measuring East to West 9.000 mt (29.5 ft), North to South 13 mt (42.6 ft), Total extent 117 sq. mt (1256 sq. ft) and House built-up Area of 72.49 sq. mt exists. North by : 31-4-599 Road, South by : Gully, East by : Site No. 10, West by : Site No. 12 Measurement : East to West 9 mt, North to South 13 mt Under Loan Agreement Cum-Mortgage of the property Situated at within the Sub-Registration District of Channapatna and Registration District of Ramanagar.	28-09-2021 & Rs.1162632/-	07.04.2022
Branch : Mallathali LAN No: VLPHMSNR0001566 Borrowers: 1. MR.KARIYAPPA 2. MRS.BHAGYAMMA 3. MR.DEEPAK KUMAR 4. MR.ARUN KUMAR	All that piece and parcel of the property bearing No.1, Khaneshumari No.3220, situated at Harohalli Village, Harohalli Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Measuring East to West: 40 feet, and North to South: 32 feet and bounded on: East by : Boraiah's property, West by : remaining portion of same property, North by : Public Road, South by : Rangappa's Property	29-06-2021 & Rs.686172/-	07.04.2022
Branch : Mallathali LAN No: SEMLATL0153142 Borrowers: 1. MR.MOHAMMED NOUSHAD QURESHI 2. MRS.SHANAZ BANU	All the Piece and parcel of Immovable Property Bearing Municipal Khata No.122/3542, PID No.20-2-515-54A, Situated at Turupalaya, 1 st Stage, Ward No.20, Ramanagara Town. Measuring from East-West 32ft, and North-South 20ft, Total extent is 640 sq.ft. North by : Private Property, South by : Road, East by : other Property of Mohammed Noushad Qureshi, West by : Sampu Daari, Measurement : East-West 32ft, North-South 20 ft, Total extent is 640 sq.ft. Situated at Within the Sub-Registration District of Ramanagara and Registration District of Ramanagara	22-06-2021 & Rs.912995/-	07.04.2022

Date:09-04-2022
Place:Bangalore

Sd/-Authorized Officer,
Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd

PUBLIC NOTICE

The undersigned advocate submit on behalf of my client **ELUMALAI S/o. Late Shivanandam,** aged about 55 years, R/at No. 137, 4th Cross, Old KEB Office Road, Khayum Garden, kavalbyrasandra, R.T. Nagar, Bangalore-560032, and others have filed the death petition for the death certificate of deceased by name **LAKSHMI, W/o. Late SHIVANANDAM as she was died on 27-01-2014** at No. 137, 1st Main, 4th Cross, KEB Office Road, Khayum Garden, kavalbyrasandra, R.T. Nagar, Bangalore-560032., If any parties who have objections may dispute regarding the same or appear before the court as below **on or before 02/05/2022 in C Misc. No. 1959/2022.**

BY ORDER OF THE COURT
Sd/- SHERISTEDAR, COURT OF THE
21st A.C.M.M BENGALURU
Sri Sharanesh S.V, ADVOCATE

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Sri. Sujangowda would like to inform general public that he has lost the Original Sale Deed bearing Document No.1372/2005-06, 4106/2011-12, 4962/2013-14, with respect to Eastern Portion of Site No.26, situated at Machohalli Village on 20.01.2022 at Madhanayakanahalli. Finders please contact :

Sri Ravikumar Advocate,
No.1697, 1st floor, Kommagatta Main Road, Kengeri Satellite Town, Bangalore-560060.
Mobile No : 9606167770.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that my client Mrs. Premalatha Bansal, W/o. Mr. Shivaprakash Bansal, residing at No. 693, Ferns Paradise, Doddanekundi, Bangalore-560037, has lost a). Original General Power of Attorney executed by Mr. Murali Chauri, S/o. Mr. K.K. Chauri, in favor Mr. Naseer Sait, and b). General Power of Attorney executed by Mrs. Uma Naganand, W/o. Mr. D.P. Naganand and Mr. D.P. Naganand, S/o. Mr. D.K.P. Rao, in favor of Mr. Nayeem Noor, both relating to property bearing Site No. 249/17, Katha No. 531, in layout known as "Laughing Water", situated at Ramagondanahalli Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, while travelling near Indiranagar Bangalore and in this regard my client has lodged a complaint before the, Bengaluru City Police in E-Lost Report No. 0198200/2022, dated 8th April 2022. Any person who finds the above mentioned documents of the aforesaid property, kindly hand over the same to me at my office mentioned below.

Mr. Manjunatha MN, Advocate,
Office at No.34, 2nd Floor, 11th Cross,
2nd Main Indiranagar I Stage,
Bangalore-560038. Mob: 91080 62857

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is given on behalf of my clients 1) **Smt. Vinutha Kempanna** W/o Sri Ranganatha Gowda, **2) Smt. Sunitha K,** W/o Sri Rishitosh Choudhary and **3) Sri Harsha Dev M.R.** S/o M.S. Ramdev, are intending to purchase the property more fully described in the Schedule from its owner **Sri S. Manjunath,** S/o Shivarudraiah, residing at Pedda Bhovi Palya, Lakkenahalli, Soluru Hobli, Magadi Taluk, Ramanagara District-562127.

Therefore, Any person/s having any right, title, interest, lien, charge or claim by way of sale, exchange, mortgage, gift, inheritance, possession, tenancy, beneficial interest under any decree, order or Award or otherwise claiming whatsoever in or over the Schedule Property or to any portions thereof, may submit their objection/s, claim/s, in writing to undersigned, through Registered Post, along with the supporting documentary evidence, within 10 days of the issuance of this notice, failing which the negotiations will be completed, without any reference to such claims, and the claims if any, shall be deemed to have been given up or waived.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of agriculture land measuring 4 acres 23 guntas with 'A' kharab 4 Gunta and 'B' Karab 9 guntas in Sy. No. 5 situated at Gangenapura Village, Soluru Hobli, Magadi Taluk, Ramanagara District and bounded on **North by:** Land of Vasudeva Rao Sindhya and Sadashivaiah, **South by:** Land of Shivarudraiah, **East by:** Land of Vasudeva Rao Sindhya and Hanumaiah, **West by:** Land of Revannasiddaiah and Sadashivaiah.

SREERANGA .L, Advocate,
No.126/304, 3rd Floor, Amar Towers,
1st Cross, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru-09.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **Sri. Udaya Bhaskar Reddy @ U.B. Reddy** S/o. Late. Linga Reddy, intends to purchase the below mentioned Schedule Property from **SRI. NAGASUNDAR,** S/o. Gurunanjappa, Aged about 62 years, Residing at No.304, II Stage, West of Chord Road, Mahalakshmipuram, Bangalore-560086 who represents and warrants that he is the absolute owner in possession of the same. The said owner further represents that he has not entered into any Agreement of Sale/ Development agreement/ Memorandum of Understanding, or any sort of arrangement with any person/s for sale/transfer/development of the Schedule Property SRI. NAGASUNDAR, has represented that he has not created any charge or lien or encumbered the Schedule Property either in favour of any other person/s or bank or financial institution/societies, etc. Apart from the said owner, if any other person/s have any manner of right, title and or interest or demand or claim or charge or lien over the Schedule Property, under any deed/instrument or otherwise, may submit his/her/their/its objection/s, claim/s, in writing only through Email and/or Registered Post Acknowledgment Due (RPAD) to the undersigned at the below mentioned address along with supporting documents within 10 (Ten) days from the date of publication of this notice. If, no objection is received by the undersigned as aforesaid, my client shall proceed with the above-mentioned transaction deeming that apart from the said owner none else has any manner of right or claim or interest in or over the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the Site Bearing No.1223, Khatha No.336/3283/1223/3332, BEML 5th Stage, Rajarajeswarinagar Ward No.160, situated in the layout formed by the B.E.M.L Employees Co-Operative Housing Society Ltd., as per the plan approved by the Bangalore Development Authority, on the lands bearing Sy.No.91/2, 99/1, 99/2, 99/3, 101/2, 140, 141, 142, 173, 174, 175, 178, 180, 181, 182, 184, 188, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 207, 208, 210, 211, 217/1B, 217/2, 218/1, 218/2, 228, 229/2, 230 & 241 of Halagevaderahalli Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, Measuring **East to West : (93'-6" +72)/2 Feet and North to South : (80'+82')/2 Feet totally measuring 744.75 Sq Yards (6702.56 Sq Feet)** bounded on

East by: Site No.1222, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Road, **South by :** Site No.1214.

Sd/- **K.P. Nataraj,** Advocate
No.13, 2nd Floor, 1st Cross, 4th Main Road,
Chamarajapete, Bangalore-560018.
Mob. 9886209950
Email: vakil.nataraj@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the General Public that my client **Sri.L.V.Maheswara Reddy** S/o L.Veera Reddy, Residing at Mobbuchinthalapalli Village, Vemula Mandal,Pulivendula, Y.S.R Kadapa District, Andhra Pradesh – 516349, is intended to purchase the schedule property, described in the schedule below, from the present owner Sri.H.R.Jayashekara Reddy S/o Sri.H.C.Ramachandra Reddy, Residing at No.301, Niranjan Genesis Apts., Mylasandra Road, Begur Village and Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore – 560 068., the present absolute owner is in peaceful possession and enjoyment of the schedule property and the katha records are stands in his name.

Any person/s having objection/s or claims, with respect to sale and transfer of the schedule property, may with documentary evidence, lodge their objections/claims within seven days from the date of this notice with the undersigned, failing which, our client will proceed to purchase the schedule property where after no further claims will be entertained and or the same will be deemed to have been waived or abandoned.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the **Vacant Property Bearing Site No.19, Presently B.B.M.P.Katha No.55/19/49/3/1/19, formed in Converted Sy.No.49/3, vide conversion order bearing No.B.DIS. ALN.SR (A) 14/2005-06, Dated. 13.04.2005, issued by Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore., Measuring East to West 60 Feet and North to South 40 Feet, in Measuring 2400 Square Feet, Situated at Kudlu Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, presently within the jurisdiction of Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Bangalore.**, together with all the appurtenance whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface., and bounded on:

East by : Road
West by : Site No.8
North by : Site No.20
South by : Site No.18

Contact. **JSR Associates**
Sri.S.L.Lakshmipaty Reddy, Advocate
No.348, 6th Main, 15th 'A' Cross,
6th Sector, HSR Layout, Bangalore.
Mob.8008026029 / 9538239937

Kannada activist Vatal Nagaraj has criticised Home Minister Amit Shah's statement on Hindi, saying it is wrong and dangerous. He warned of protests if there are any attempts to impose Hindi in Karnataka

2023 polls in mind, Cong appoints office-bearers

List includes 40 vice-presidents and 109 general secretaries

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

NEARLY after a decade, the Congress on Saturday appointed 149 new office-bearers to the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC). The party has come up with this omnibus list of office-bearers with an eye on the 2023 Assembly elections in the state which is just about a year away.

Caste and regional representation along with a combination of old and new generation leaders has been taken care of in these appointments, sources said. "The list accommodates 'all groups'... and therefore is expected to keep 'all groups' happy," said a party insider.

AICC general secretary, organisation, KC Venugopal, released the list of office-bearers consisting of names of 40 vice-presidents and 109 general secretaries. There were murmurs in the Congress corridors as to why the list was so large. There is much speculation that the 'standoff' between different groups — DK Shivakumar group, Siddaramaiah and the third group consisting of KH Muniyappa, H K Patil, B K Hariprasad, and Dr G Parameshwara — resulted in the long list considering that each one had sent a list of office-bearers to the party top brass. The central leadership dilly-dallied on this list for at least six months, sources said. It may be recalled that KPCC president DK Shivakumar had said that the list would be ready by Ayudha Puja of last year. But thanks to the 'stand-off' between the groups, the central leadership had no option but to accommodate virtually everyone and also this resulted in the list getting delayed.

Senior Congress leaders told *TNSE* that the list has never been this large. "It is just an indication of the stand-off between the different factions," said a leader. The last time that office-bearers were appointed was a decade ago when Dr G Parameshwara was the KPCC chief.

This list has been prepared with an aim to prepare the Congress to face the 2023 polls. The complaint was that many positions in the Congress were vacant considering many of the office-bearers last appointed had died or a few retired.

Social boycott call puts BJP leader in soup

ENS @Hubballi

A CALL given by BJP leader and Hubballi-Dharwad Urban Development Authority chairman Nagesh Kalburgi to socially boycott the family of a girl, who eloped with a Muslim boy and got married recently, has landed him in a soup.

The girl is from the Sahasrarjuna Somavansha Kshatriya community. Though the community people and some Hindu outfits tried to project the marriage as a case of 'Love Jihad', the girl released a video, in which she confessed that the marriage was held with her consent.

Kalburgi, who is a prominent SSK leader, had written to the SSK Samaj Pancha Trust Committee, the supreme body of the community, in the official letter head of the authority chairman seeking a social boycott. He also suggested five measures and requested the committee to discuss them to prevent Love Jihad incidents in the samaj.

However, the move of the BJP leader has led to widespread criticism. It is widely objected that being in a government position, how can he demand a social boycott, which is a social evil, and how can he use the official letter held for the purpose. Opposition leaders have sought action against Kalburgi.

After Araga, BJP MLC now says victim killed for not knowing Urdu

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

DAYS after Home Minister Araga Jnanendra made a statement saying that the murder of one Chandru in a road rage incident in Bengaluru was because he "did not know Urdu" and hastily retracted it a few hours later, another BJP leader, MLC N Ravikumar, on Saturday made the same remark, saying that the victim was murdered by "goons" as he did not know Urdu.

Araga Jnanendra

N Ravikumar

When told by *The New Sunday Express* that the home minister had made the same statement and retracted it later, Ravikumar claimed that Jnanendra was "misguided" by the police, and said that action should be taken against the officers.

Ravikumar's statement comes in the wake of widespread protests by Congress leaders from across the state, including in Mysuru, Belagavi, Shivamogga and Davangere, where party cadres lodged police complaints seeking action against the home minister for "intentionally trying to show one community in a bad light and "making provocative statements with the intention to disturb communal harmony".

The Congress have also called for action against BJP National General Secretary C T Ravi for making similar statements two days ago.

Interestingly, BJP MLC Adagur H Vishwanath, speaking on the matter with *The New Sunday Express* , said, "The ministers need to be fair. The government cannot been seen as partisan. Is it not the government of all people and not just one section? Then should they not be fair?"

On the issue of preventing Muslims from conducting businesses near temples, Vishwanath asked why mutts and religious heads have not spoken on this matter. "Would they have not spoken if their grants were cut?" he asked.

It may be recalled that the Congress leaders and Youth Congress have called for action against Jnanendra and CT Ravi for making "false and misleading statements".

SUNDAY INTERVIEW

'INVESTORS, INDUSTRIES NOT GOING ANYWHERE'

RAMU PATIL

OVER the last few months, Karnataka has been in the news for various communal issues, raising concerns over its impact on the state's investment scenario. **Industries Minister Murugesh Nirani**, however, ruled out any impact on the state's ability to attract investments, and termed the recent developments as a flicker that will fade out soon. Excerpts:

How do you allay apprehensions among investors as the state has been in the news for several months over communally sensitive issues?

Karnataka has always been an investors' paradise. World-class facilities and investment opportunities offered by our state are unparalleled in the country. The noises over some issues, be it hijab or halal meat, have no bearing on the investment climate in the state. These issues are blown out of proportion by the Opposition parties for political gains and some vested interests trying to stunt Karnataka's growth. Let me assure our business community that there is no cause for worry. Karnataka is one of the best governed states in India and is known for peace and maintenance of law and order. I will also like to state in unequivocal terms that we in the government will not tolerate any attempts to disturb peace. We will deal firmly with any group or individuals that try to vitiate the atmosphere and pose a hindrance to growth and development. Our police force and other law enforcement agencies are capable enough to deal with such inimical forces.

What will be the impact of issues like the hijab row, campaign against halal meat, preventing Muslim traders from doing business at temples and now regulating loudspeakers at mosques, on the investment scenario in the short and long term?

These issues have nothing to do with the investment scenario in the state. The hijab issue is related to the rule of the law. The High Court has passed an order after a section of girls challenged the school uniform rule and sought an exemption. Now, the matter is before the Supreme Court. Halal meat is related to food habits and some rituals and it is for individuals to choose what kind of meat they want to consume. Some groups have called for preventing Muslim traders from opening shops on temple premises citing a rule passed during the Congress government. There has also been a tit-for-tat call by some Muslim leaders against Hindu shop owners with some mischievous elements giving a call to boycott Hindu shops during Ramazan. But the government is not taking sides. We are committed to upholding the rule of law. And regulating the use of loudspeakers is not restricted to mosques alone; the police department and pollution board have issued notices to temples, mosques and churches, asking them to adhere to the court rulings on decibel level to check noise pollution. And these issues will in no way affect the investment climate. Other states in the country are also dealing with such issues, but some people are making noises to sully Karnataka's image.

We in the government will not tolerate any attempts to disturb peace. We will deal firmly with any group or individuals that try to vitiate the atmosphere and pose a hindrance to growth – Murugesh Nirani, Industries Minister

Any plans to hold meetings with industries and prospective investors to address their concerns in the wake of latest developments?

Our engagements with industries, business leaders and industry bodies have been constant. We are always receptive to ideas coming from industry leaders and have always tried to address their concerns. Being an industrialist myself, I know the problems faced by the business community. We are here to help them conduct their businesses in a smooth and peaceful atmosphere. We are always ready to address their grievances and allay any apprehensions. I can assure them that Karnataka will always be an investor-friendly state and there is absolutely no need to worry. We will consider holding meetings with industries to reassure them if they have any concerns.

Are you concerned as these issues are coming to the fore at a time when you and your department are preparing for the Global Investors Meet?

Absolutely not. Let me make it clear that these issues are in no way going to affect our preparations for the mega Global Investors Meet in November 2022. The GIM is going to be a grand success and the state will attract investments surpassing our expectations and create massive number of jobs. These issues are a flicker and fade out soon. Ultimately people want peace, growth and prosperity.

The Opposition Congress says politics of polarisation kills a state's composite culture, economy and investment prospects. How do you respond?

By making such irresponsible statements, the Congress is in fact damaging Karnataka's prospects and its reputation. It's not the BJP, but the Opposition Congress and JD(S) that are indulging in politics of polarisation by making issues out of non-issues, twisting facts and giving a communal colour to current issues for political gains. They are doing it keeping the vote banks in their mind as the state is heading for the polls next year. They are deliberately giving a communal colour to put our party in a bad light, but the people of Karnataka are clever enough to see their designs, which are appeasement and vote bank politics. I urge the Opposition to play a constructive role and join hands with the government for the state's growth, rather than making unfounded allegations which will only cause damage to our state and help our detractors.

Employment generation is one of the major challenges for the government. What steps are being taken on that front?

Growth without jobs is no growth at all. Employment generation is key for any economy to grow. Our government has been giving preference to investment proposals that have the potential to create jobs. In recent times, we have cleared several investment proposals worth thousands of crores through State-Level Single Window Clearance Committee (SLSWCC) meetings. These investments have the potential to generate massive jobs across the state. We are setting up cluster-based industrial parks in many districts, which will generate a lot of employment opportunities. We are also giving sops to industries that provide jobs to our youths.

Telangana seems to be aggressive in trying to attract investors from Karnataka. How does Karnataka plan to counter it?

It is but natural for every state to strive to attract investments, create jobs and achieve economic growth. But this should be done in a healthy way and not at the cost of others. States can compete with others to attract investors. The key point here is that Karnataka is not competing with other states in the country, we are competing at the global level. Karnataka has already emerged as the top investment destination and top recipient with 48 per cent share of the total FDIs in India in the last three quarters. The response received from investors during our visit to Dubai Expo 2020 was overwhelming. Others states can fight for the distant second position. We have become a global hub for manufacturing and a key player in the global supply chain. It is amusing to see my counterpart in Telangana trying to wean away investors from investing in Karnataka and asking them to shift their bases from Bengaluru to Hyderabad citing infrastructure and other issues. I will say that this is in poor taste. Bengaluru is a global technology hub and top contributor to India's GDP. Nobody can snatch its place and nobody can match its robust ecosystem. Be it Telangana or any other state, they have the right to woo investors by showcasing their strengths, but should desist from sabotaging other's growth and achievement. Karnataka ranks no.3 in the Export Preparedness Ranking, a leap from its previous 9th position. None of the investors or industry is going anywhere and they are here stay as the state provides the best business environment among others.

New Anubhava Mantapa works will begin in May: Bommai

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and former CM B S Yadiyurappa offer tribute to Basaveshwara in Basavakalyan on Saturday | EXPRESS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Basavakalyan

CHIEF Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Saturday announced that the works on the new Anubhava Mantapa in Basavakalyan will start from May. Bommai was speaking after inaugurating a Kalyana Karnataka Yatra Parva, jointly organised by Basavakalyan Kshetra Samiti and Vikas Academy, in Basavakalyan.

"The government has already sanctioned Rs 500 crore for the project and released Rs 200 crore. All the places in Basavakalyan where social reformer Basaveshwara and his followers preached the philosophy of social justice will be developed. The mantapa will be an iconic building and attract tourists from around the world as it will become a platform to spread the message of the Sharanas," Bommai added.

He also lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi and former chief minister B S Yediyurappa for their regard towards Jagajyoti Basaveshwara. Modi had recited the Vachana of Basaveshwara 'Kalabeda Kolabeda' umpteen times, he said.

Lauding the former CM, Bommai said, "It was Yediyurappa who showed interest in the construction of the Anubhava Mantapa and laid the foundation stone about a year back. He even sanctioned Rs 500 crore for the works. Our government is committed to completing the works in a time-bound manner."

Bommai further said the task of building the mantapa with all amenities has been entrusted to Vikas Academy chairman Basavaraj Patil Sedam.

Yediyurappa, Abhinava Gavi Siddeshwara Swamiji, Sri Basavalinga Pattada Devaru, ministers and MLAs participated in the programme. Earlier, the Chief Minister chaired a meeting of the Basavakalyan Development Authority.

The members suggested developing the places of the Sharanas in Basavakalyan. Already some of the important structures where the Sharanas lived and preached have been encroached upon, they said.

The members suggested maintaining a fixed deposit of the sanctioned amount so that the interest could be used for the maintenance of Basavakalyan.

All villages to get tapped drinking water by year-end

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE state government is committed to completing Mane Manege Gange (drinking water through taps) scheme by the end of this year, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister K S Eshwarappa said on Saturday.

"All 97 lakh houses will get water supply under the scheme. Work is going on at 50,000 villages of which 3,000 villages have already achieved 100 per cent tapped drinking water, he told reporters.

Eshwarappa said the initiative started in 2020 with the Union government releasing Rs 3,325 crore and the state Rs 2,323 crore. "The state government has established labs to test the water quality at 46 taluks in 31 districts. As many as 18,600 drinking water units have been established. Earlier, 25 per cent of houses in rural areas had water supply at their doorsteps which has now increased to 46 per cent," he added.

Eshwarappa also claimed that they are doing better in the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act Scheme, Jayadhaare programme and even cleanliness in rural areas.

On Friday, Housing Minister V Sommanna had held a press meet to give details on his department's achievement. Sources from the BJP said the ministers were directed to give publicity on the achievements of their departments as communal issues in Karnataka are sending the wrong messages to voters.

They were told to focus on their work rather than on communal issues.

Under the Swach Bharath Mission, 12.62 lakh individual toilets, 1,496 community toilets and 3,983 sewage treatment plants have been constructed

K S Eshwarappa, RDPR Minister

POLITICAL RUMBLINGS

'Any overhaul only after Nadda's visit to K'taka'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"SHAH knows that the people of Karnataka cannot be impressed by emotional issues alone, as they are development-oriented, and only such issues strike a chord," the source said. Compounding the situation are neighbouring states Telangana and Tamil Nadu inviting startups to move out, given the physical infrastructure and social atmosphere.

Post Shah's visit and Bommai's New Delhi trip, the high command has not yet given clearance for either cabinet expansion or reshuffle, leading to murmurs of a leadership change. Nine of ten BJP leaders in Karnataka, whom *TNSE* spoke to, said there would not be a change in leadership but said anything may happen.

"No doubt, he has presented a good and balanced budget and if all that he has promised gets implemented ahead of state elections in 10-11 months, the party would be in a stronger position," a senior leader stated. A highly-placed source said the party doesn't want to go to polls in Karnataka, or any other state, riding only controversial issues that could ultimately mar its winning prospects.

With Karnataka known for not voting back a party to power, the BJP central leadership wants to break the jinx, just as it managed to do in Uttar Pradesh. "This could be possible only if we fight the assembly elections on development issues rather than on controversial ones," remarked a senior leader, preferring anonymity.

A source who denied that there would be a change in leadership in Karnataka, said finding an alternative to Bommai now will give political fodder to the opposition, especially the Congress. It is believed that any overhaul will happen only after the scheduled visit of JP Nadda and others on April 16 and 17, for the state executive committee meeting in Karnataka. Bommai's position and the government's stability in the run-up to the 2023 polls are likely to be discussed at the meeting.

An increase in demand and shortage of supply of power in Andhra Pradesh has created an inevitable situation where power holiday and power curbs have to be imposed on the industrial sector to ensure power supply for domestic and agriculture sectors, energy secretary B Sreedhar said.

AS K'TAKA EXITS PANDEMIC, PRICE RISE DELIVERS

SUCKER PUNCH

TEAM TNIE

WHILE issues like hijab, halal meat and use of loudspeakers for azaan continue to divide society on communal lines, increasing prices and inflation is impacting people, regardless of their religious background, across the state.

Price rise has come at a time when Karnataka is just emerging from a pandemic, and the state's unemployment rate is about 1.44 per cent, as per data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE). The rate of unemployment is the percentage of unemployed individuals in an economy among individuals currently in the labour force. But besides the unemployed, there is also a yet-to-be-estimated number of underemployed people, who although employed, are in jobs that undervalue their qualifications and skill sets.

The latter segment suffers equally due to price hike because they are drawing much lower salaries than what they are actually qualified to draw — and price hike and inflation take a big bite off their relatively paltry incomes.

For instance, Karthik Raj, an engineering graduate who is forced to work as an an auto driver in Bengaluru, says, "It's very difficult because the price of almost everything has increased. Daily expenditure is now twice compared to, say, before the pandemic. The recent hike in auto fares is barely 10 per cent. Meanwhile, LPG fuel has risen from around Rs 45 per litre two years ago to Rs 74 per litre today. As the sole breadwinner of my family, the increase in household items like food and groceries, children's school fees and failure to increase fares has made matters very difficult. We also have to compete with Ola and Uber to make a living."

However, it's not easy going for Ola and Uber drivers either. Tanveer Ahmed, president, Ola Uber Drivers and Owners' Association, says before Covid-19, fuel cost Rs 65/litre and cab fares were almost the same. At present, the cost of diesel is almost Rs 100/litre. "During the lockdown, we had to pay EMIs despite most of us being at home without work. Many have taken loans on interest during the lockdown, as ours is a daily earning industry. The entire family depends on one vehicle, which is bought on loan. Additionally, we need to pay taxes and insurance," he says.

He says continuous fuel hikes have hit their lives. "Daily earnings are spent on fuel and nothing is taken home," he says. "We requested the state government to give us subsidies by issuing passes for commercial vehicles, but nothing has been done. If we increase fares, business will be hit as the public would be burdened. Moreover, GST (Goods & Services Tax) is being levied on cab aggregators."

A FARMER'S WOE

Ranganath, a marginal farmer, grows paddy twice a year on his 30 guntas of land in Arahatholalu village of Bhadravathi taluk in Shivamogga district. He belongs to a lower middle class family. His annual income is approximately Rs 2 lakh.

He says, "I am forced to work as an agricultural labourer to manage household expenses. The number of days of working as a labourer has increased, with soaring prices of essential commodities and fuel."

His monthly family expenses would come to Rs 15,000, but how cross Rs 20,000. "For two or three months, we are being forced to pay an additional Rs 1,000 per tin of cooking oil. The cost of petrol has gone up three times. It is unfortunate that vegetables grown by farmers are purchased at a lower price and sold at a higher price. Even we have to purchase them at a higher price from vendors. The cost of agricultural labour has increased from Rs 400-500 to Rs 800-1,000, and scarcity of labour persists. We have to meet labour costs during planting of saplings and harvesting," he explains, expressing anguish over the hike in power tariff too.

TEACHER BOWS TO HIKE

Ambika Savalagi, although an MA, BEd graduate, teaches in a private school, Birla Shloka School in Kalaburagi, for a salary of Rs 10,200. Her husband, Santosh, works with a private company and earns Rs 10,000. Their son is in Class 10.

"I am afraid of facing the future with the income my husband and I earn, as it is barely sufficient to lead a life, let alone think of luxuries," she laments. "I manage to run the family with Rs 18,000-19,000 per month. We have to spend our entire income on the house."

Rachana, a BSc student at a private college who stays in a paying guest accommodation near Kadiyali, Udupi, says even the price of snacks has increased after commercial LPG price was escalated by Rs 250 per cylinder.

"I came here from Davanagere to study, but due to the rise in cost of living, I worry about my parents as I am forced to ask for more money to meet expenses. My father is a farmer and ours is a middle-class family. This price rise issue has to be tackled by the government, otherwise people like us will suffer," she says. "My father is planning to send my sister to Udupi after two years for her education. But then it may be even tougher to manage a family budget, since my mother is unwell. The government should at least make basic cooking items affordable," she says.

Sushmitha, a nursing student staying in a paying guest accommodation, says her parents are forced to cut down on expenses. Her mother is a midday meal worker and father a beedi roller. "My family's monthly income is Rs 20,000. Other than things required for my studies, I have stopped spending for personal items, so that I don't burden my parents," she says.

BIG PICTURE

Alayna, a degree student, says PG owners are also cutting down on expenses and providing non-vegetarian meals only once a week. "The PG owner has increased rent from Rs 5,000 to Rs 6,500, which is not affordable for many, and says we have to pay extra for non-vegetarian food. Since electricity bills have also gone up, they are planning to accommodate more students in each room," she says.

BIG BITE OFF SMALL SNACKS

Small eateries and hotel owners, colloquially called 'mirchi bajji centre owners' are hit by rising prices of LPG, petrol and edible oil. Small hotels which make vadas, onion pakodas, mirchi and brinjal bhajjis cannot sell vadas or bajjis below Rs 10, and if they increase prices, they fear losing customers. Hotel owners say they may have to shut down hotels, or suffer losses.

Petrol price has crossed Rs 100, edible oil is over Rs 200, a domestic LPG cylinder costs Rs 971 (14.2 kg) while a commercial cylinder costs Rs 2,315. Hoteliers say their profit margins are narrowing, and standard or big hotels are also under loss. Sukumar Shetty, a hotel owner in Gadag, said, "We saw a sudden hike in LPG, fuel, essential items and power tariff. It is a shock for those who run small hotels. We usually invest Rs 1,500 daily on raw materials for bajjis and other snacks, but now it's beyond Rs 2,000 and we have thinner margins."

Motilal Thakur, a hotel owner from Panchakshari Nagar, says, "Prices are increasing but we cannot increase rates because customers will not come. Some hoteliers are making smaller vadas and idlis and giving less quantity of upma and other items to cover losses."

A SOLUTION?

A barrel of crude, which was $79, had touched $139 but over the last three days, has dipped to $100. If the Central government decreases excise tax and the State government reduces tax, the price of fuel will be reduced further.

Whenever inflation goes beyond the threshold limit, the government and private sector can introduce subsidised coupon systems, through which people can buy essentials. Some countries have similar systems. If people are given these subsidized coupons, their purchasing power will increase, which will ultimately go to the government in terms of tax. This system can be practised during times of inflation.

*— **Prof SR Keshava**, Professor, Department Of Economics, Bangalore University*

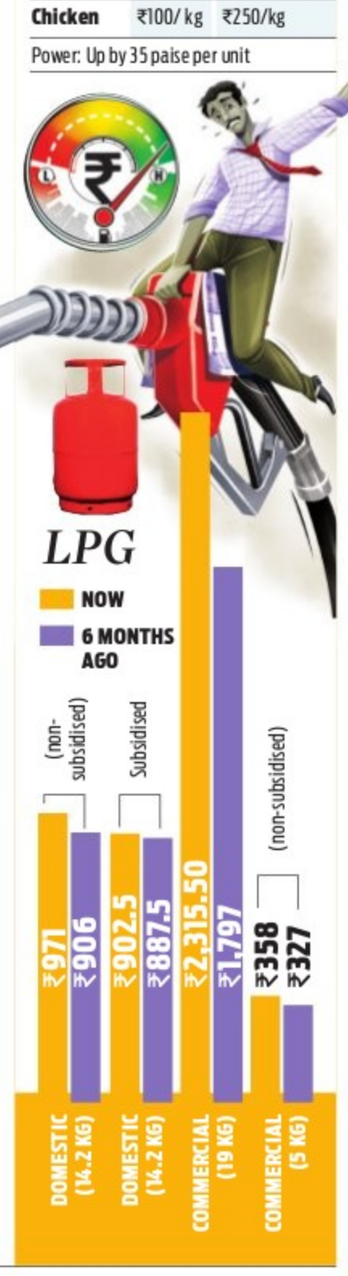
***Inputs from:** Ashwini M Sripad, Praveen Kumar, Donna Eva/Bengaluru; Arpitha I/Shivamogga; Ramkrishna Badseshi/Kalaburagi; Prakash Samaga/Udupi; Raghottam Koppar/Gadag; and Divya Cutinho/Mangaluru*

Aam Aadmi Party Women's Wing cook food on wood fire to protest against rising prices of cooking gas and fuel at Freedom Park on Saturday. Around 250 AAP leaders and volunteers joined the agitation around 11 am, and offered puja to a gas cylinder | SHRIRAM BN

UP, UP AND AWAY

Commodity	2020	2022
Petrol	₹74/litre	₹111.07/litre
Diesel	₹66/litre	₹94/litre
Autogas	₹45/ litre	₹74 per litre
Mutton	₹600/kg	₹700/kg
Chicken	₹100/ kg	₹250/kg

Power: Up by 35 paise per unit



GRAND PREPARATIONS

Bhadrachalam Temple decked up ahead of Rama Navami on Sunday in Telangana | EXPRESS

Stalin calls for Oppn to unite against BJP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kannur

TAMIL Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin was cheered, and welcomed with loud applause by thousands of CPM workers who thronged the Jawahar Stadium on Saturday to attend the CPM party Congress seminar.

The comment of CPM general secretary Sitaram Yechury might have made an impact on the minds of Stalin as he had addressed the crowd during the seminar on 'Centre-state relations.' Yechury had said that Stalin was most suited to lead the united front of opposition parties against BJP at the national level.

The man in white was forthright in his words and made it clear that a galvanised opposition should fight against the Centre's attempts to impede the development of non-BJP states, and to restore the rights provided in the Federal structure of the state government.

"For this, we should look beyond politics," he said. Concluding, he said that to restore the ideals of social justice, secularism and equality, all parties should come together to take the fight against the BJP.

CPM general secretary Sitaram Yechury (right) greets Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin

There were many issues where CPM could agree to the perspective of Stalin, like his criticism of governors in non-BJP states.

"When there is an elected cabinet in each state, is it not unconstitutional for seeking to rule the state through the office of Governor?" asked Stalin. Is it constitutional for seeking to run a parallel government through the Raj Bhavan in the states ruled by opposition parties?" he asked, training his guns on Governor RN Ravi.

"Bills passed by the legislature, including NEET bills, have not been sent to the President by the Governor, indulging in delaying tactics," said Stalin. The same sentiments would be shared by Pinarayi himself

HINDI IMPOSITION BID WILL BOOMERANG, KTR WARNS SHAH

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Hyderabad

WARNING that "language chauvinism/hegemony will boomerang", Municipal Administration Minister **KT Rama Rao** on Saturday joined others from across the nation in criticising Union Home Minister Amit Shah for remarking that people should use Hindi and not local languages as an alternative to English.

Rama Rao made his priorities clear, saying that he is an Indian first, and a proud Telugu and Telanganite next.

Responding to Shah's comment that Indian people of different states should communicate with each other in Hindi and not English, the IT Minister took to social media to say: "Language chauvinism/hegemony will boomerang". Incidentally, this was the first reaction by a leader from the two Telugu States to Shah's statement.

Rama Rao tweeted: "I am an Indian first, a proud Telugu and Telanganaite next... Can speak in my mother tongue Telugu, English, Hindi and a little bit of Urdu too. To impose Hindi and diss English will be a great disservice to the youngsters of this nation who have global aspirations. #stopHindiImposition."

He added: "Unity in diversity is our strength dear @AmitShah Ji. India is a union of states and a true 'Vasudhaika Kutumbam'. Why don't we let people of our great nation decide what to eat, what to wear, who to pray to and what language to speak! Language chauvinism/hegemony will boomerang."

Presiding over a meeting of the Parliamentary Official Language Committee in New Delhi on Thursday, Shah had said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has decided that the medium of running the government is the official language, and this will definitely increase the importance of Hindi.

He informed the members that 70 per cent of the agenda of the Cabinet is prepared in Hindi. Shah also said that the time has come to make the "official language Hindi" an important part of the unity of the country, adding that Hindi should be accepted as an alternative to English and not to local languages.

DOWRY HARASSMENT

Family members should not face trial without reason

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka High Court observed that family members who are not alleged to have overtly acted against the complainant/victim in a dowry harassment case, should not face trial or criminal proceedings. Such cases should be nipped in the bud by quashing proceedings, without letting them degenerate into harassment, the court added.

Justice M Nagaprasanna made this observation while allowing a petition filed by Varalakshmi and three others from Andhra Pradesh and Bengaluru, against criminal proceedings initiated before the trial court in Hosapete, based on a complaint filed by B Shruthi, wife of Prashanth, against her mother-in-law, father-in-law and sisters-in-law, in Mariyammanahalli Police Station in Ballari district.

The petitioners questioned the case registered against them for offences punishable under provisions of the IPC, and Sections 3 and 4 of the Dowry Prohibition Act. After conducting investigations, police filed a chargesheet against all the petitioners, who knocked on the doors of the high court.

The counsel for the petitioners argued that they are in no way connected to the life of either the complainant's husband, who is Accused no. 1, or the complainant, and have no knowledge of any torture meted out by the husband. The complainant and husband stayed separately from the family members.

Counsel of the complainant refuted the submissions and contended that the petitioners are equally responsible for the acts of the husband as they instigated him. On hearing the arguments, the court said the complaint, investigation and summary of investigation as found in the final report/chargesheet don't make out any offence against the petitioners. The petitioners do not even reside with the couple. In a squabble between husband and wife, members of the husband's family are hauled into criminal proceedings without reason, the court said.

HM: Govt taking Al-Qaeda chief's remark seriously

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"SEARCHES went on till last night. There was no bomb, it was a hoax. Police are trying to find out who is behind the hoax threat," Jnanendra told reporters here. However, he did not specify which central agency is involved in the investigation.

Responding to a question on Al-Qaeda chief Ayman Al-Zawahiri's video statement in which he used the recent hijab controversy in Karnataka to target democracy in India, Jnanendra said the government has taken it seriously and all necessary measures are being taken. "I can't share the details, because it's not a normal thing. He (Zawahiri) is the head of an international terrorist organisation. If he has spoken about our Mandya girl, we have to take it seriously. It is a matter of securing our national unity and integrity, we will do whatever is required," he added.

Stress on Backward Classes in Jagan's new Cabinet

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Vijayawada

Chief Minister **YS Jagan Mohan Reddy**'s new team will be sworn in at 11.31 am on Monday. The venue would be the vacant space near Secretariat. The Cabinet would be a mix of those who had recently resigned and the new and Backward Classes will be given more representation.

For the second day in a row, Jagan sat with his advisor and party general secretary Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy for almost three hours to pick his new team. "The exercise will continue till Sunday afternoon," Sajjala informed after coming out of the meeting, adding that the new members will get calls from the CMO on Sunday. Sources said at least seven ministers might be re-inducted. Since the team would canvass the government's policies in the run up to 2024 polls, the CM is said to have decided to give more priority to Backward Classes in the new Cabinet.

Life is funny. If you don't laugh, you're in trouble.

Taylor Hawkins

MONETARY POLICY: RBI SAYS YES, NO, MAYBE

THE THIRD EYE

SHANKKAR AIYAR
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NOBEL llaureate Robert Lucas once observed that, 'everyone is a Keynesian when in a foxhole'. Economies which had turned Keynesian in the wake of the virus — and are now confronted with trillions in liquidity and rising inflation worsened by war — are struggling to exit the foxhole.

On Friday, the Reserve Bank of India and Governor Shaktikanta Das attempted to fashion a policy tailored for the context. Typically, central banks and central bankers consume a few hundred words to clear the air. However, after a statement of over 3,500 words spread across an hour, the air was enveloped in a fog of expectation, notions, and assumptions.

Indians, and the investing world at large, were informed that the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee "decided to remain accommodative while focusing on withdrawal of accommodation to ensure that inflation remains within the target going forward, while supporting growth". The statement tests the limits of the theory of Indian exceptionalism even as it presents a unique exposition in semantics — in the suggestion that a fire be fuelled and yet doused.

Even to those most sympathetic to the central bank's predicament, the policy stance is at best a classic conceptualisation of a 'Yes, No, Maybe' response. Yes, the RBI expects inflation to worsen — it moved its forecast from 4.5 per cent to 5.7 per cent. No, there is no assurance that previous growth forecasts will sustain — the RBI has trimmed GDP forecast from 7.8 per cent to 7.2 per cent. Finally, the RBI says that "any projection of growth and inflation is fraught with risk" leaving the policy in 'maybe' territory, up for a shock and review.

There is much lather about the hawkish turn of the RBI. It is true that yield on the ten-year bonds shifted orbits by 20 basis points to 7.13 per cent but the characterisation of the policy as hawkish would most probably send ornithologists into a tizzy. For sure the MPC and the Governor have reconstructed the sequence of priorities. "Our goals of price stability, sustained growth and financial stability are mutually reinforcing and we continue to be guided by this approach." But there is little in the policy beyond this to arrest or at least constrain the rise of inflation.

Consider the data points from the RBI's own statements to appreciate the collision of competing compulsions which the economy is confronted with. In his statement, the Governor quoted NSO data to underline the fact that private consumption and fixed investment, which are key drivers of domestic demand, remain subdued — only 1.2 per cent and 2.6 per cent respectively above pre-pandemic levels.

And the durability of this incipient improvement is threatened by the spectre of persistent inflation. The MPC observes "since the February meeting, the ratcheting up of geopolitical tensions, generalised hardening of global commodity prices, the likelihood of prolonged supply chain disruptions, dislocations in trade and capital flows, divergent monetary policy responses and volatility in global financial markets are imparting sizeable upside risks to the inflation trajectory and downside risks to domestic growth."

The threat to growth from inflation is well established. In October 1979, in a seminal talk on the management of growth and inflation, former US Federal Reserve chairman Paul Volcker said, "I don't see this as a either or proposition. That is the basic point. If inflation gets out of hand, it is quite clear that it would be the greatest threat to the continuing growth of the economy, to the productivity of the economy, to the investment environment, and ultimately to employment."

Inflation hurts the vulnerable the most, detains consumption, and deters investment and grounds growth. In the post policy interaction, RBI Deputy Governor Michael Patra emphasised that for a developing economy, it is critical that the real interest rates stay in positive territory and that the pivot, repositioning of inflation as priority, is to restore the equilibrium. To appreciate the gap, one must look at the current repo rate and the trend of inflation. Bridging the gap — even assuming the forecasted average of 5.7 per cent — would necessitate half a dozen rate hikes.

The RBI has dithered to correct the imbalance, most recently in February and has wavered again. The question is what is the RBI waiting for? This column (https://bit.ly/27Savers) has pointed out that savers have been suffering negative real interest rates since long. In six of the last 12 months, consumer price inflation has hovered around 6 per cent. The likelihood of inflation nudging closer to 7 per cent is real and puts the MPC credibility in peril.

Finally, context is critical for policy. Developed economies are racing to raise interest rates, shrink balance sheets. The current consensus is that next month, and maybe again in June, the US Federal Reserve will hike rates by 50 basis points (0.50 per cent). It is estimated by the end of 2022, the US will witness seven rate hikes. Arguably, India's level of foreign reserves and largely rupee denominated borrowings will act as a buffer. That said there is no denying that rising rates and shrinkage of balance sheets will impact flows, equity and debt, into developing economies.

Being behind the curve imposes costs and has social and political implications. Can India afford to be behind the curve?

THE RISE OF COMMUNAL NATIONALISM

POINT OF VIEW

T J S GEORGE

THERE was Nehru's India and then there was Vajpayee's India and now there is Modi's India. Same soil, but three different countries as it were. It is useful to keep this transformatory evolution in mind as we struggle to cope with changing notions of patriotism in our country. Modi's India is different not only from Nehru's India, but also from Vajpayee's India. Although Vajpayee belonged to the same ideological school that Modi did, the veteran often adopted a nation-before-ideology approach in policy issues. That put him leagues above the ordinary BJP leader but not in the same category as Nehru.

Nehru's India had two main characteristics. One, it promoted big-scale nation-building projects, an example being the massive Bhakra-Nangal dam that Nehru described as a temple of modern India. Secondly, it set up organisations that rested on the cultural wealth of the country and tried to add to it in constructive ways. Institutions came into being as conceptualised by cultural icons such as Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay and Pupul Jayakar. Thus was born the National Crafts Museum and the arts colony at Faridabad. Crowning this facet of India's growth was Le Corbusier's Chandigarh.

The Modi Government has been trying to erase Nehru from the history books, a foolhardy job that only exposes its promoters' calibre. Nehru had such a role in the making of modern India that it would be impossible to think of India without thinking of Nehru. There is a Shashi Tharoor book with a title that brings this out "Nehru: The Invention of India."

Christophe Jaffrelot has, rather ironically, contributed to the understanding of Nehru's India by evaluating "Modi's India." This new book has a clear-cut subtitle: "Hindu Nationalism and the Rise of Ethnic Democracy."

It is time India paid attention to the phrase, Ethnic Democracy. In essence, it means an undemocratic democracy. That is, a democracy that equates the dominant majority with the nation and relegates other groups into secondary citizenship. Jaffrelot points to "laws passed by BJP governments to protect Hindu symbols, crack down on foreign NGOs and appoint Hindu nationalistic sympathisers as heads of prestigious universities."

He says India has changed, perhaps irreversibly, from a liberal secular polity a decade ago to a majoritarian 'ethnic democracy' today. As evidence, he points to the demonisation of dissent, defiance and denigration of parliamentary procedure by the ruling party and the encouragement of vigilantism.

He draws attention also to the growth and purported influence of the RSS in all sectors from bureaucracy and judiciary to academia and journalism. Campaigns like "love jihad" and "gauraksha" and "ghar wapsi" carry a powerful message. The Government of India, it was pointed out, spends about ₹1,300 crore every year for publicity.

There is reference to Bajrang Dal activities in UP against Muslims. A young Dalit had become Muslim because "upper caste people don't allow a decent life for Dalits." He was forcibly reconverted and shaved by Bajrang activists. The author does not beat about the bush when he says: "Reconversion is only one means of making Muslims invisible. Not mingling with them in mixed neighbourhoods is another. To achieve segregation, a process of ghettoisation was set in motion in riot-prone cities. In Ahmedabad, for instance, the recurrent violence minorities have been subjected to has prompted them to group together in outlying settlements, such a Juhapura. In this city, municipal decrees prevent them from buying or renting property in Hindu-majority areas, ostensibly due to local communal tensions."

This is what Indian democracy has come to. Communalism seems to be at the core of it, influencing decisions, social relationships and political positions. It is an upside-down kind of democracy, but it seems to have become too entrenched to be reconsidered. This is India's tragedy.

References to the communal partisanship of state authorities are hair-raising even in retrospect. The fascist ways used to attack demonstrating students in Aligarh Muslim University provide an example. As regards AMU's street demonstrators, "the police simply opened fire on them. On December 20, six people were killed. The following day 10 more were killed. The police also targeted property owned by Muslims."

The real food for real thought is in sentences like: "The lenient attitude of the judiciary vis-a- vis the Bajrang Dal and the VHP prepared the ground for the rise to power of an aggressive version of Hindu nationalism and reflected pro-Hindutva and anti-Muslim bias among judges. For these judges, such tendencies have become commonplace, and tongues have loosened." When a Muslim youth was lynched in Pune, the assailants were released on parole by the Bombay High Court. The judge said, "The fault of the deceased was only that he belonged to another religion. I consider this factor in favour of the accused... It appears that in the name of the religion they were provoked." When such ideas prevail at the highest levels, there is no scope for confusion as to how the home of a billion free-thinking people turned into "Modi's India." Cry, the beloved Country.

NEED UNIFORM CIVIL CODE OF CONDUCT TO COUNTER DIVISIVENESS

POWER & POLITICS

PRABHU CHAWLA
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Follow him on Twitter @PrabhuChawla

If God had so wished, he would have made all Indians speak with one language ... the unity of India has been and shall always be a unity in diversity.
—Rabindranath Tagore

INDIA is the Omkara of the world. Everything, that has been, and will be finds resonance in its ancient vastness, as it exults in its Oneness. It unifies a billion identities with Oneness, which is what makes us truly the children of Bharat. Hence, unity cannot be ensured through uniformity. But it can be ruined by the imposition of monochrome identity.

India is universal consciousness, where separate elements thrive as one, having stayed united in heterogeneity for centuries. It is a country of maximum languages and minimum conflicts. Its culinary traditions change according to region. Its costumes and dresses are woven from the same textile of national identity. Temples dot its landscape, and so do mosques and churches. This quilt of faith reflects the multi-religious colours of the nation which has over 75 per cent Hindus as inhabitants. Exceptional unity in diversity has always been India's USP to the world.

But this homogeneity is under severe threat from the new politics of identity emerging in India. In spite of over 5,000 years of heritage, there is an ominous revival of a clash between communities. As Indians celebrate both Ram Navami and Ramzan, fringe elements are raising their ugly heads and voices seeking malefic relevance. In the recent weeks, some political leaders have been clamouring for a ban on meat sale, erroneously claiming that most Hindus are vegetarians during this period. Ram Navami is celebrated to mark the arrival of Lord Ram as Vishnu's avatar on Earth. A substantial number of Hindus fast for nine days. This is not the first time that Ram Navami is being observed. It is as old as Lord Ram himself. But never before has any politician raised such a demand. The mayors of Delhi's municipal corporations ordered the closure of meat shops, but ironically not a complete closure of slaughter houses.

If a temporary ban on meat retail was manifestly ridiculous, so was the opposition to it. Descending into a vociferous vortex of absurdity, the naysayers argued that the sale of onions, garlic and liquor must also be banned because their consumption is considered impure during holy days. Numerous Hindu illiberals indulged in chest thumping, claiming that they are proud beef eaters who oppose the meat ban. There were other freeloaders who used international forums to defame India and claimed Muslims were under threat. In order to claim their fundamental right, they were fuelling the communal divide. Curiously, the meat ban coincided with Ramzan when Muslims consume non-vegetarian dishes after fasting. It has become a dismal first across the social metric.

Another such first in India is a section of vocal Hindus imposing their personal beliefs on others. Equally aggressive sections of Muslims in Karnataka flexed muscles to dictate their beliefs on education. Undoubtedly, the hijab was adopted in the Islamic women dress code a few decades ago, but was never an issue until now. But suddenly, its conservative defenders decided that their daughters would rather give up studies than accept the school dress code. There is hardly a school in the world which doesn't insist on a uniform for students. The hardcore Muslim leadership has rejected the court ruling. However, the radical Hindu reaction to this stubbornness is stupefying and shocking. In yet another dismal first, many temple authorities denied permission to Muslims to run businesses near shrines, which they were doing for decades. Creating a din to make the presence of the divine felt is the Uncivil Code of political opportunism which is paraded as faith.

The conflict is not confined to just meat. Many BJP states have made teaching the Bhagavad Gita compulsory in schools. The Gita is not a religious book but a dialogue between Lord Krishna and Arjuna which forms the manual of inner knowledge to fight evil with good — it is the soul of eternal India. But secularists perceive its introduction as imposition of majoritarianism on the minorities. When yoga was introduced in educational institutions to make the younger generation healthy and acquire a positive mindset, it was opposed. But the illiberals beat a hasty retreat when yoga found international acceptability.

Changing names of cities, dictating sartorial choices and imposing food restrictions are perhaps misguided attempts to achieve unity through uniformity. It is an ominous sign of the majority striking back at the flaws of the past. Those who back the newly glamorous but politically incorrect promotion of a divisive agenda assert that their actions are only meant to correct and reverse the historical blunder of appeasement by the previous Indian establishment. According to them, the right to religious freedom was misused more by the majority. Yet, Muslim preachers rarely follow judicial orders limiting the noise level of the azan. The minarets of mosques are wired with equipment with the decibel power to disturb the entire locality. The growing trend of using public roads for namaz on Fridays and blocking traffic is infuriating Hindu youngsters. In addition, they have been seeking special subsidies for education and even Haj visits. The case is equally applicable to temples. They turn up the volume of heavy duty loudspeakers to amplify prayers. Fortunately, Sikhs and Christians do not advertise their faith with noise.

Versus is the new vicious. As political confrontation becomes a lethal game plan to grab power, my dress vs. theirs, my food vs. theirs, my religion vs. theirs and my culture vs. theirs have become the nasty narrative. No political leader has ever proposed a compulsory Uniform Civil Conduct Code for all Indians. They are happy to demand a Uniform Civil Code since it will get votes. Indians are never known to observe basic civic behaviour in public. Religion is not meant to be displayed as a privileged asset. It is a private practice. Sadly, the Vicars of Bray sporting saffron and green costumes in public, wielding swords and trishuls are feted as the true soldiers of the community. Authorities turn a blind eye to self-appointed contractors of faith capturing public land for the construction of illegal religious buildings. Any official who attempts to demolish these unlawful structures is immediately transferred. Uncivilised behaviour has become a badge of honour.

In the early 1990s, former prime minister VP Singh made an attempt to end the religious menace of loudspeakers, processions and unauthorised construction of religious buildings. He advised one of the members of the National Integration Council (NIC) to move a resolution banning such wrongdoings. But when the resolution was moved in Parliament, no MP seconded it. The member requested eminent parliamentarians and BJP leaders, but to no avail.

Since then, raising religious slogans, invoking the scriptures and seeking political legitimacy through provocative speeches have become essential qualifications for budding political leaders. They exploit the colour of a dress, the ingredients of a recipe, the architecture of a religious building and the name of an individual to get ahead, rather than be committed to the welfare of citizens. For them, uniformity in thinking and living are the only twin tests for a prosperous Bharat. But a Swasth, Swachh, Surakshit and Samarth Bharat needs a humane Common Civic Code of Conduct to be followed without discrimination by all Indians. Respect for all and hate for none should be the only standard for Bharat to live by.

QUOTE CORNER

We have seen the cruel face of Putin's army. We have seen the recklessness and cold-heartedness with which they have been occupying this city. Here in Bucha, we saw our humanity being shattered. The world is mourning with the people of Bucha

Ursula von der Leyen, European Commission president

We have come a long way toward perfecting our union. In my family, it took just one generation to go from segregation to the Supreme Court. It has taken 232 years and 115 prior appointments for a Black woman to be selected to serve on the Supreme Court of the United States. But we've made it!

Ketanji Brown Jackson, US Supreme Court judge

MAILBAG

WRITE TO letters@newindianexpress.com

Putin needs to be punished

About a month has passed since the Russian invasion of Ukraine. It continues its barbaric war in Ukraine even after the International Court of Justice's recent directive to stop the war. Lakhs of Ukrainians have fled to their homelands leaving behind their belongings for fear of their lives. Thousands of people including children were killed in the war. Educational institutions and hospitals were destroyed by the Russian forces. Putin deserves no leniency for these war crimes. The International Court of Justice should be empowered to prosecute the erring world leaders like Putin and punish them so that peace prevails in the world.

VK Kumar, Thiruvananthapuram

Make vaccine free for people

It is evident that India is not learning from the past mistakes . When vaccines were made available for the first time in the country , we heard vaccines were not free for all. Later, the government changed the policy and distributed vaccines free of cost for all. Now people are expecting free booster doses. Paid vaccine will not work even in rich countries. India has more than enough time to prepare for another wave or new variant . We are aware of rising Covid cases in China, the US, Europe and elsewhere. Distribute the booster doses as soon as possible and make the population immune to virus .

Girish R Edathitta, Pathanamthitta

SC stamp on changes in FCRA

When the Centre brought amendments to FCRA, there was a hue and cry that this government was acting on the agenda of wiping out recipients of foreign donations. There were inconsistencies, irregularities and misuses of funds and various other mismanagement of the organisations through foreign donations. There were propagandas of anti-establishment also. To set right such violations, the government has brought in many amendments. It is laudable that the apex court has upheld the constitutional validity of the FCRA Amendment Act leaving the petitioners red faced.

K Jayanthi, Chennai

Sanctions boomerang on US

This has reference to 'US dollar comes under All-round attack'(April 9). Russia managing its business, despite sanctions and denying the facility of SWIFT, is an indication that sanctions may not always work and ultimately the dollar will lack the value as a global currency. US sanctions against India, when we made nuclear bomb, failed miserably. So, sanctions have the potential to boomerang on the country which imposes sanctions.

Dharmarajan AK, Thalassery

No unity among oppn parties

While CPM is hankering after forging a national alliance to oust BJP from power, as things stand today, the prospects are remote (TNIE Editorial, April 8). There are many examples of sharp disunity among Opposition parties, which have no solution in sight. In Kerala, the CPM and the Congress are ever locked in horns. In Bengal, the CPM has unbridgeable rivalry with the TMC. Understandably, these parties do not compromise on individual ambitions and agendas for the sake of a broad unity.

P Mangalachandran, Kannur

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

Shashi Tharoor @ShashiTharoor
Why would a govt that gave everyone's first two shots free, require poor citizens to pay for booster? Don't make the vulnerable pay

Tejashwi Yadav @yadavtejashwi
A 45-year-old 500-ton iron bridge was looted in broad daylight by the BJP-Nitish government of 17 years

Devendra Fadnavis @Dev_Fadnavis
Such attacks are not appropriate in Maharashtra. This is a big failure of the police. Media cameras arrive, so why not the police?

Top AAP leaders in Himachal opt for lotus

Days after Kejriwal and Punjab CM Mann held roadshow in the poll-bound state, turncoats say they were sidelined

HARPREET BAJWA @Chandigarh

IN a big setback to the Aam Aadmi Party ahead of the Himachal Pradesh Assembly election, the party's state president and two other leaders joined the BJP on Saturday.

AAP state chief Anup Kesari, organisation secretary Satish Thakur and Una district president Iqbal Singh said they were "disappointed" with Delhi CM and party supremo Arvind Kejriwal and accused him of "overlooking" party workers during the road show in Mandi and being "ignorant" of their issues. The AAP leadership, however, claimed that the BJP inducting these leaders showed that the ruling party was "scared of the AAP's growing influence in the hill state".

Sources said Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur on Friday night organised a meeting with the turncoat AAP leaders at the residence of BJP national president JP Nadda in Delhi.

After joining the BJP, Kesari said that for the last eight years they had been working round-the-clock for AAP with "utmost dedication" to build the party in the state but Kejriwal overlooked them when he came for the road show in Mandi. "We were disappointed as only Kejriwal and Bhagwant Mann (Punjab CM) were the highlights of the road show and no one from the state were allowed on the vehicle. "We considered this as an insult and hence decided to quit the party over self-respect," he said.

Kesari assured Thakur and Nadda of working harder for the saffron party to bring it back to power in the upcoming Assembly polls.

AAP Himachal president Anoop Kesari (second from right) joins BJP in the presence of JP Nadda and Anurag Thakur | PTI

The roadshow that kicked off the campaign

AAP on Wednesday kick-started poll campaign in Himachal with a road show in Mandi where Kejriwal and Mann, sought "a chance" from the people

Attacking Kejriwal, Thakur said the AAP chief insulted his own party leaders and workers during the road show in Mandi. "During the road show in Mandi, except Kejriwal and Mann, no one was allowed on the vehicle," he said.

In a tweet, Kejriwal said if the BJP had worked honestly for people, it would neither have felt the need to take tainted people from other parties and nor to change its chief minister. Delhi Deputy Chief Ministerr Manish Sisodia claimed that the party had already decided to show the door to Kesari for his "inappropriate behaviour towards women".

Despite guzzling funds, rlys failed to speed up trains

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

THE Indian Railways made no perceptible improvement in the running speed of express trains despite spending a significant amount of ₹2.5 lakh crore on track infrastructure during between 2008 and 2019. This was revealed after the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India tabled a report in the Parliament

The railways implemented 'Mission Rafatar' in 2016-17 following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call to increase the average running speed of freight trains from 25 kmph to 50 kmph and that of mail and express trains from 50 kmph to 75 kmph by 2021-22.

The CAG in its audit report pointed out that only 0.18% improvement was made in punctuality performance of express trains and 0.61% improvement in the average speed of express and mail trains. The report also noted a decrease of 9.72% in the average running speed of goods trains.

"The average speed of mail and express trains and goods trains in 2019-20 were only 50.6 kmph and 23.6 kmph, respectively," the report stated.

The CAG also stated that the targets in respect of average speed are yet to be achieved by the Indian Railways while it has adopted rolling stock with a rated capacity of 100 to 160kmph and tracks with maximum permissible speed (MPS) of 100-130kmph in certain sections of its networks. The CAG report said a through audit analysis has revealed that scheduled speed of 97.9% of 2,951 mail and express trains were below 75kmph.

"The target of achieving 160kmph speed of coaching trains and 100kmph speed of freight trains had been fixed on several occasions between 1960 and 2016-17. The timeline to increase the speed has also been constantly revised. However, the same had not been achieved until 2019-20," the CAG stated.

It has pointed out that even after many years of planning and targeting, there has been no change in the maximum permissible speed (MPSs) of Rajdhani and the Shatabadi trains since their induction.

BJP leaders taking out a campaign rally in Shimla on Saturday | PTI

BJP kicks off campaign in Himachal, upbeat about retaining power

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chandigarh

BJP national president JP Nadda on Saturday claimed that the saffron party would again form government in Himachal Pradesh, where Assembly election is due this year. Stating that the party would approach the voters with a "report card full of achievements", Nadda kicked-off the saffron camp's poll campaign in Shimla.

Buoyed by the recent electoral victories in four states, BJP is trying to retain power in the Himalayan state.

Accompanying Nadda, Union information minister Anurag Thakur said, *"Chauka lag chuka hai, chaka bhi lagega* (Already hit four, will hit six as well)." He was referring to the poll victories of the saffron party in four states and the upcoming election in Himachal and Gujarat.

Addressing party workers and leaders, JP Nadda said the BJP will again form government in the state as the "Opposition neither has any leader nor any programme".

"Congress has always compromised on the interests of the state and its people whereas on the other hand, the BJP not only safeguarded the interests of the state, but also provided several developmental projects and incentives to Himachal Pradesh," he said.

> **Himachal Pradesh has also emerged as a pharma hub and over 12 companies are exporting their products world-wide. Congress has always compromised on the interests of the state**
>
> JP Nadda, BJP chief

The BJP chief said PM Modi ensured that weaker sections of the society get their dues. Listing the development projects being undertaken in the state, Nadda said nine food parks have been established in the state. "The state has also emerged as a pharma hub and over 12 companies are exporting their products world-wide," he said, adding that the 90:10 ratio for Central-state share for projects has also been restored during the tenure of the BJP.

BUZZ OVER PILOT MEETING RAHUL AND PRIYANKA

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

POLITICAL corridors in Rajasthan are abuzz after Sachin Pilot's meeting with Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Friday evening.

Sources in the Congress said the party high command wanted to pacify Pilot by offering him a bigger role in the party at the central level but the former deputy chief minister is keen to stay in Rajasthan where Assembly elections are due next year. The sources said Pilot was keen to return as the PCC chief in the state so that he could play a major role during the ticket distribution.

Pilot had a 45- minute-long meeting with the Gandhi siblings in Delhi, where organisation general secretary KC Venugopal was also present. Pilot's parleys in Delhi have set off strong speculations.

However, a few party sources claimed Pilot's discussions with Rahul and Priyanka were more about the upcoming elections in Gujarat and Himachal. There are indications that Pilot's role in these elections may be increased.

According to political analysts, after Pilot fiercely campaigned in the recent elections in five states, Priyanka wants him to be entrusted with a lead role at the national level in the grand old party. The leadership seems to want Pilot to work for strengthening the Congress at the national level by assuming a senior position. The Gandhi siblings also want Pilot to play a major role in the Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat elections by going beyond the role of being just a star campaigner.

Two years ago, Pilot was removed from Ashok Gehlot cabinet for leading a revolt. Currently, he does not have any position in the government or party. Leaders close to Pilot, however, said he wanted to stay in Rajasthan.

Pilot's eyes are still focussed on the CM post and he enjoys support from a large section which wants to see him in the CM chair.

However, there are many difficulties in making him the party president. First, the current chief Govind Dotasara comes from the Jat community and removing him may anger the influential community which play a key role in 60 out of 200 seats in the state. Second, Pilot tried to topple his party's government while he himself was the state president, and his revolt forced 100 MLAs to stay in hotels for over a month. This large section of Congress MLAs is not ready to make Pilot the head of the organisation again.

EXPRESS READ

Pawar family's security beefed up

MUMBAI: A day after MSRTC workers staged a protest outside the residence of NCP president Sharad Pawar in Mumbai, Maharashtra Home minister Dilip Walse Patil on Saturday said the security of the Pawar family has been beefed up. Walse Patil also said that action will be taken against officers responsible for security lapses. While Pawar enjoys Z-plus security cover, the security of his MP daughter Supriya Sule has been upgraded from 'X' to 'Y' plus escort.

135 shanties gutted in gas cylinder explosion

DURG: At least 135 shanties were gutted on Saturday in a fire that involved multiple gas cylinder explosions in Chhattisgarh's Durg district. There was no report of injuries to anyone. "A fire broke out in one of the shanties in Bhilai at around 3 pm, leading to an LPG cylinder exploding, which further triggered the blaze. The fire spread in a few minutes and eventually some 10 cylinders blew up in the area where most of the residents are labourers," said a senior police official.

Mayawati didn't respond to alliance offer in UP polls: Rahul

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

AFTER the party's abysmal performance in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday said the party had reached out to BSP chief Mayawati for an alliance in the state but she did not respond "out of fear" of CBI, ED and Pegasus spyware.

Speaking at the release of a book 'The Dalit Truth', Gandhi attacked Mayawati for a "giving a walkover to the BJP" in Uttar Pradesh as she did not even contest out of fear of investigative agencies. "We offered an alliance and she would be made the chief ministerial candidate but there was no response from her," Rahul said.

Speaking about BSP patriarch Kanshi Ram for articulating the Dalit voice of Uttar Pradesh, Rahul said he has respect for him, though the Congress had suffered during that phase.

"Mayawati ji is saying that I will not fight for it (Dalit cause), but she gave a clear passage to the BJP," he said. The Congress won just two seats and the BSP one in the UP elections.

> **We gave a message to form an alliance and asked her to become the CM face. She did not even talk to us. She gave a clear passage to the BJP. Why? (Because of) the CBI, the ED and Pegasus** — Rahul Gandhi

Alleging that CBI and ED controlled the political system, the former Congress chief said he would not have been able to speak up against the government had he taken any money.

Attacking the RSS, he said Congress and Dr BR Ambedkar gave India a weapon — our Constitution but RSS's "capture of institutions" has undermined it. "Constitution is a weapon but it is meaningless without institutions. SCs, minorities, adivasis and other weaker sections pay the price of this subversion. People need to speak up or else institutions will continue to be controlled and the Constitution will not be followed. Our fight back must follow the path shown by Bapu, Nehruji and Babasaheb," the Congress leader said.

Pointing to the state of the country's economy, Gandhi said, "This is the time to fight." He said Ambedkar and Gandhi had shown that 'there is a path, but you need to tread on it. "There is a way, but you need to tread that path".

After Mumbai, Vadodara reports case of XE variant of Omicron

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT & DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @New Delhi//Ahmedabad

THE Gujarat government on Saturday reported the first case of Omicron's sub-variant XE in the state. Said to be 10 per cent more transmissible, this was detected in a man from Mumbai who tested positive for Covid-19 during his visit to Vadodara. He has gone back to Mumbai and is said to be in stable condition.

This is the second reported case of the variant in India, after one in Mumbai earlier this week. The Central government, which denied that the case in Mumbai was one of XE, did not comment on the Gujarat case till late in the evening. Experts have advised not to panic, saying that this combination of the BA.1 and BA.2 strains of Omicron will not be dangerous for a vaccinated population.

Officials at the Indian SarscoV-2 Genome Consortium (INSACOG), a network of labs that tracks sequences, and the Union health ministry are yet to confirm if the Gujarat case is actually an XE variant.

According to Gujarat health department officials, a test was conducted on a 67-year-old man who came to Vadodara from Mumbai last month. He took a Covid-19 test after complaining of fever. The report was positive. This was around March 15. His samples were sent for genome sequencing to Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre in Gandhinagar for testing as per ICMR guidelines. The report came on Friday night.

Those who came in contact with the man from Mumbai have tested negative. "Covid test reports of three persons who came in contact with the patient are negative," the Gujarat health department said. "Condition of the patient was stable when the health department had a conversation with him over the phone. As precautionary measures, action has been taken in that area in Vadodara as per Covid guidelines," said the health department in a media statement.

Gujarat's Additional Chief Secretary of Health, Manoj Agarwal said, "Transition capability of the XE variant is higher than Omicron. The hospitalisation process is the same. The Centre will continue to provide guidance."

The current variant has generated concern worldwide and in India, which has just lifted all Covid-related restrictions, with many states making it not mandatory to wear masks anymore.

'Decision taken based on inputs from experts'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

BHARAT Biotech co-founder Suchitra Ella tweeted saying, "In consultation with the Central Government, we have decided to revise the price of #COVAXIN from ₹1,200 to ₹225 per dose for #privatehospitals." The Union health ministry said private hospitals can charge a maximum of ₹150 as service fees over and above the cost of the vaccine. "Private vaccination centres must declare the price per dose chargeable by them on Co-WIN, in accordance with the prices declared by the manufacturers," the ministry told the states.

The states were also told that the booster dose will be of the same vaccine as the one used for the administration of the first and second doses.

The health ministry said the decision to extend booster dose to all adults was taken "based on inputs received from domain knowledge experts."

It's bonhomie again between CM Shivraj Chouhan and Uma Bharti

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhopal

FIVE days after expressing differences over their stand on alcohol ban in Madhya Pradesh, bonhomie seems to have returned between Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and former chied minister Uma Bharti.

The two senior BJP leaders tweeted on Saturday praising each other. "I made a mistake, by not sharing with you that Shivraj Ji had rung me immediately after I had mentioned about him through media. We had a 20-minute-long conversation over phone and decided to meet soon for positive and decisive discussions on all issues. Shivraj ji's affection for me and my respect for him can never decrease," Bharti tweeted on Saturday.

Returning the gesture, Chouhan tweeted: "She's not just a political worker but also a social reformer, who works enduringly to take the society in the right direction. I'm with her in all reformative works."

According to sources, the open differences between the two senior leaders have not gone well with the BJP leadership, which apparently communicated with Bharti.

Mocking the two leaders, state Congress spokesperson Narendra Saluja asked why Bharti took five long days to remember that the CM had telephoned her immediately after her tweets on April 4. "If the present CM has so much respect for the ex-CM, why doesn't he announce a total alcohol ban in the state, as demanded by her. He is instead making liquor cheap."

On April 4, while addressing a program in Narmadapuram, Chouhan had said, "Total prohibition alone cannot end liquor consumption, as even in states where there is total liquor ban, the situation is bad."

The CM's public statements were seen as a response to Bharti's sustained demand for total liquor ban in the state.

'Bulldozer Mama' intensifies drive

BHOPAL: After the poll success of 'Bulldozer Baba' (Yogi Adityanath) in Uttar Pradesh, now 'Bulldozer Mama' (Shivraj Singh Chouhan) is on a demolition drive in adjoining Madhya Pradesh, which will elect a new government in 2023. Inspired by the success of neighbouring UP, the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government has freed within three months public land worth `671.61 crore, by bulldozing encroachments put up by land sharks and other anti-social elements. In the first three months of the year the authorities freed 2243.80 acres of land. As many as 3,814 encroachments were bulldozed in 1,791 cases. *ENS*

STEEL BRIDGE STOLEN

A 60-feet-long steel bridge, weighing 500 tons, was dismantled and stolen by a group of men posing as government officers in Bihar's Sasaram district, police said on Saturday

16 MODEL VILLAGES IN ASSAM'S HAILAKANDI DISTRICT

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	42	26	Mumbai	32	27
Bhopal	42	26	Panaji	32	27
Jaipur	42	25	Patna	41	24
Amritsar	38	20	Lucknow	42	25
Chennai	34	28	Port Blair	32	26
Kolkata	35	29	Imphal	28	17
Srinagar	28	08	Chandigarh	46	24

FIGHT FOR UPPER HOUSE

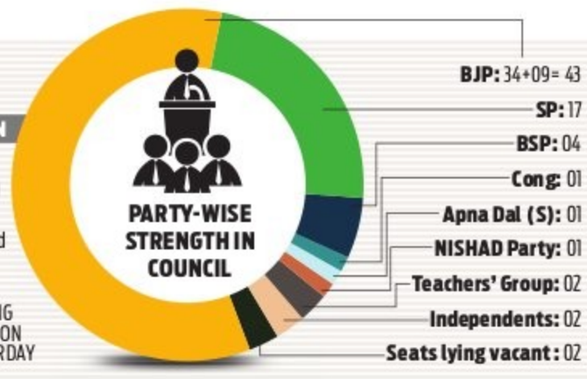
100 TOTAL SEATS IN UP COUNCIL

- Members nominated by state Governor: **10**
- MEMBERS ELECTED BY UP MLAS: **38**
- Members elected by local bodies/ people's representatives: **36**
- MEMBERS ELECTED BY THE TEACHERS CONSTITUENCY: **08**
- Members elected by graduate constituency: **08**

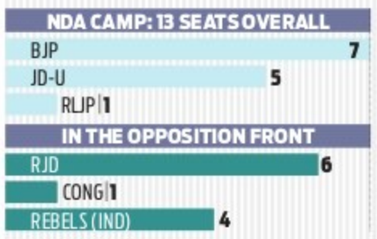
CURRENT POSITION

36 Seats up for elections | 9 (BJP) Members elected unopposed

27 SEATS VOTING HELD ON SATURDAY



UNRAVELLING THE FISSURES



BJP SETTLE FOR LESS

Though the ruling NDA retained its upper hand, main constituent BJP had to settle for just seven seats out of 12 contested. The party faced embarrassment in places like Saran, which went with a rebelling candidate

EMBOLDENED RJD

From five to 11 members in the Legislative Council by winning in six seats, the leading opposition party RJD is set to give a tougher fight against the ruling dispensation led by the NDA

JD-U HUMBLED

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's JD-U won five constituencies, resulting in a major diminution in its tally since it held eight of the vacant seats

● Tenure of 24 seats in the 75-strong upper house ended in July last year ● Elections had to be put off because of the pandemic

In straight fight with SP, BJP eyes majority in UP Council elections

Opportunity for any ruling dispensation to achieve majority in both houses after 1990

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

ROBUST voter turnout was recorded for the elections to 27 seats of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council election on Saturday. A whopping 98.11 per cent voters exercised their franchise sealing the fate of 95 candidates in the biennial elections.

UP CM Yogi Adityanath was among the early voters as he cast his vote in Gorakhpur in early hours as voting commenced at 8 am.

According to the Election Commission of India, Rae Bareli registered the highest voting percentage of 99.35 per cent followed by Pratapgrah at 99.25 per cent, Sitapur at 99.20 per cent and Barabanki in the same bracket with 99.16 per cent. Gorakhpur, the stronghold of UP CM Yogi Adityanath, recorded the lowest voting percentage where 96.50 per cent voters turned up to exercise their right till the conclusion of the process at 4 pm. Gorakhpur was followed by Farrukhabad with 96.5 per cent turnout and Saharanpur with 96.69 per cent voting. State capital Lucknow recorded 98.90 per cent turnout.

Of the total 36 seats of the local bodies constituencies up for grabs, ruling BJP had already bagged nine – Budaun, Hardoi, Kheri, Mirzapur-Sonbhadra, Banda-Hamirpur, Aligarh, Bulandshahr and Mathura-Etah-Mainpuri. Mathura-Etah-Mainpuri segment has two seats.

On Saturday, voting was held for constituencies including Moradabad-Bijnor, Rampur-Bareilly, Pilibhit-Shahjahanpur, Sitapur, Lucknow-Unnao, Rae Bareli, Pratapgarh, Sultanpur, Barabanki, Bahraich, Gonda, Faizabad, Basti-Siddharthnagar, Gorakhpur-Maharajganj, Deoria, Azamgarh-Mau, Ballia, Ghazipur, Jaunpur, Varanasi, Allahabad, Jhansi-Jalaun-Lalitpur, Kanpur-Fatehpur, Etawah-Farrukhabad, Agra-Firozabad, Meerut-Ghaziabad and Muzaffarnagar-Saharanpur, across 58 districts of the state. The results will be declared after the counting of votes on April 12.

Following its resounding victory in Assembly polls, the BJP had set its eye on becoming the single-largest party in the state legislative council as well by winning a majority of the 36 seats. It is an opportunity for any ruling dispensation to achieve majority in both houses of UP legislature after 1990.

In the 100-member Legislative Council, the BJP currently has 34 MLCs, the SP 17 and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) four. The Congress, Apna Dal (Sonelal) and NISHAD party have one member each in the Upper House. The Teachers' group and independent group have two MLC each.

BIHAR COUNCIL POLLS

Nitish 'taken aback' by results, JD-U says alliance failed to address discord

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

BIHAR Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Saturday said he was "taken aback" by the results of recent legislative council election to 24 seats. Kumar's statement is seen as a sign of infighting within the ruling NDA as a senior Janata Dal (United) leader earlier said the alliance would have won more seats had the leaders avoided confrontation.

Talking to the media on the sidelines of birth anniversary of Mauryan ruler Ashoka, Kumar said the results in some seats were contrary to the expectations. "I am amazed. At some places (constituencies) the candidates were confident about their victory based on the feedback they had received. But the results were just opposite," he said.

Kumar's statement came a day after senior JD-U leader and energy minister Bijendra Prasad Yadav said the NDA could have won more seats if there was no confrontation among the alliance leaders.

Yadav, considered close to the state chief minister, hinted at internal fights within the NDA resulting in electoral losses.

"Conflicting statements from some leaders of the BJP during the election period sent out a message that everything was not normal within the NDA," Yadav said.

In the NDA camp, the BJP won seven seats while the JD-U bagged five. One seat went to the kitty of Rashtriya Lok Janshakti Party of union minister Pashupati Kumar Paras.

In the opposition front, the RJD won six out of 23 seats it had contested. The Congress, which contested solo, had to content with just one seat.

Though the NDA got 13 out of 24 seats, the opposition RJD increased its tally in the House from five to 11. This will enable it to retain the post of leader of opposition in the 75-member legislative council. The results have emboldened the RJD, which is set to give a tough fight to the NDA in the bypoll for Bochaha Assembly seat.

The bypoll is scheduled on April 12. The chief minister said he would campaign for NDA candidate Beby Kumari on April 10.

BALLYGUNGE BATTLE

Babul's saffron baggage makes TMC sing a conciliatory tune in WB bypoll

PRANAB MONDAL @ Kolkata

THE Trinamool Congress party had decimated all opposition in the recent elections in the state of West Bengal, but the upcoming bypoll for the Ballygunge Assembly seat on April 12 is turning out to be a tough contest for the party.

The reason is the saffron baggage of its candidate Babul Supriyo, who switched over from the BJP a few months ago.

Muslims, who constitute over 30 per cent of the electorate in Ballygunge, are upset over Supriyo's candidature as the singer-turned-politician had echoed the Hindutva rhetoric aggressively when he was in the BJP. The minority community appears to be tilting towards the CPI(M), which has fielded Saira Shah Halim, daughter-in-law of former Assembly Speaker Late Hasim Abdul Halim, and niece of actor Naseeruddin Shah. Her husband Fuad Halim is a popular doctor known for his welfare works.

The candidature of Saira, touted as one of CPM's Gen-Next leaders, has brightened the chances of the party which had failed to bag a single seat in the 294-member House in the Assembly elections.

This is causing worries in the TMC. A senior party leader conceded that Supriyo's long association with the BJP in the past has queered the pitch for the TMC this time.

TMC candidate Babul Supriyo during his election campaign for the upcoming Ballygunge Assembly bypoll in Kolkata on Saturday | PTI

Several Muslim clerics had expressed unhappiness when his name was announced as TMC nominee. Sensing the unease among the party's minority vote-bank, Mamata's nephew and TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee is trying to do the firefighting. "The real candidate is the chief minister. ...Many people are saying voting for Supriyo is akin to voting for the BJP. I want to tell them that Babul has abandoned BJP's ideology and embraced the TMC ideology. He has left the politics of Jai sri Ram and followed the politics of Jai Bangla and Jai Hind," Banerjee said at a rally on Friday.

The TMC's palpable nervousness has made Halim upbeat "We are expecting a ghar wapsi of Muslim voters," she said.

BJP candidate Keya Ghosh also took a dig at TMC over Abhishek's comment that the real candidate is Mamata Banerjee. "Mamata said it in the Assembly elections and now her nephew is saying the same. Doesn't Supriyo have any personal charisma?" she questioned.

C'GARH CONG BANKS ON 'RAMAYAN CIRCUIT' FOR NEXT POLLS

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

THE ruling Congress in Chhattisgarh is leaving no room for its arch rival BJP to play religious politics in the state. With Assembly election just one year away, the Bhupesh Baghel government is pushing for the timely execution of its ambitious 'Ram Van Gaman Tourism Circuit' project, which aims to boost religious tourism.

The project involves developing and beautifying nine key locations believed to be along the route of Lord Ram's 14 years of exile.

Incidently, the government has scheduled this year's Ram Navami, on Sunday, to inaugurate the renovated Shivrinarayan Temple, second in the list of nine sites marked in the first phase of the pilgrim circuit project. This comes after the renovated Mata Kaushalya Temple was thrown open for devotees in October last year.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Sunday will formally open the renovated temple. "We have planned to develop Shivirinarayan on the lines of Ayodhya. Chhattisgarh has a glorious past associated with Ramayana. The state government is developing nine places under the Ram Van Gaman Path," said Baghel.

Ramcharit Manas recital at the Shivrinarayan temple on Friday as part of the 'Ramayan circuit' project

Shivrinarayan is a prominent pilgrimage centre where Lord Ram is believed to have stayed during his 14-year-exile. The state government is simultaneously holding a Ramayana recital contest at the temple, located on the banks of river Mahanadi in Janjgir-Champa district.

Troupes comprising 350 eminent artists from 25 districts of the state are performing during the three-day recital competition on 'Manas Gayan' (recital of Ramcharit Manas), the results of which will be declared on Sunday.

"Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel will give a cash prize of ₹5 lakh, ₹3 lakh and ₹2 lakh to the first three winners," said the government spokesperson.

RAM NAVAMI TO BE TELECAST LIVE FROM AYODHYA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Lucknow

THE first Ram Navami (birthday of Lord Ram) after Yogi Adityanath's return to power in Uttar Pradesh is likely to be special and more glittery with the state government deciding to live-telecast the celebrations from Ayodhya on Sunday.

This will be the first grand Ram Navami celebrations in Ayodhya after the construction of Ram Mandir began in August 2020. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Navratri celebrations had been cancelled in the last two years.

The nine-day Chaitra Navratri festival, which began on April 2, will culminate with Ram Navami on Sunday. Grand celebrations are planned at the Ram Janmabhoomi. A special puja will be organised in the makeshift temple at the site.

As per the rough estimates of the district administration, 20-25 lakh devotees are likely to visit Ayodhya on Sunday. As per the sources in state information and broadcasting department, the rights to air the Ram Navami celebrations from Ayodhya have been given to Doordarshan and a prominent news agency.

Meanwhile, in a bid to make the celebration accessible for the common people, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has issued directives that no VIP should visit Ayodhya on April 9 and 10. The directive states that if at all any VIP visits Ayodhya on these two days, he/she should do it as an ordinary citizen.

UP CM Yogi orders against VIP visits to Ayodhya on April 9 and 10 in a bid to make the celebration accessible for the common people | FILE PHOTO

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla being welcomed by Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma at the state Legislative Assembly in Guwahati on Saturday | PTI

'International issues should be resolved through dialogue'

GUWAHATI: International issues should be resolved through mutual dialogue and diplomacy, said Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Saturday. He was speaking at the Mid-Year Executive Committee Meeting of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association here. Referring to climate change, Birla emphasised on India's commitment towards achieving the targets approved under COP26. He mentioned initiatives like the International Solar Alliance and expressed confidence on achieving the targets under the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma described it as a historic day for the state as it was for the first time the CPA meeting was being held in India. Acting Chairperson of CPA and British MP Ian Liddell-Grainger also enumerated several path-breaking initiatives of the CPA at the meeting. *ENS*

N-E outfits reject Centre's move to make Hindi must

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

THE Northeast is venting its ire over the Centre's move to "impose" Hindi on the region. Union Home Minister Amit Shah had on Friday said that Hindi would be made compulsory up to Class 10 in the eight Northeastern states. He described Hindi as "the language of India". However, the move has ruffled the feathers of various organisations in the region.

The North East Students' Organisation (NESO) said it always stood for a three-language policy – English, Hindi and the local language.

"We oppose this move as it is a kind of imposition. Hindi can be an optional subject," NESO chairperson Samuel B Jyrwa told this newspaper.

He said the organisation would approach all the state governments in the region to not make Hindi compulsory.

Meghalaya Congress legislator Ampareen Lyngdoh said the state is protected by the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution and the Centre would not be able to impose Hindi on the students.

"Khasi and Garo are the two major languages of our state. So, we cannot allow this (Hindi)," she said.

The Krishak Mukti Sangram Samitee (KMSS) in Assam condemned the Centre's move, terming it as "anti-democratic, anti-constitutional and anti-federal". "After the BJP formed the government in Assam, it has kept taking anti-Assam and anti-Assamese decisions. It removed Assamese paper from the Assam Public Service Commission exams. Also, Hindi-speakers have been employed as teachers across schools in the state," the peasants' body said.

CM's favourite juice spot gets named after him

The infectious charm of Mama (as Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan is fondly addressed) isn't just confined to MP, but has rubbed off to his 'sasural' (Maharashtra) as well. A sugarcane juice outlet named 'Mama Raswanti Grih' located on the Shirdi-Shani Shignapur Road in Ahmadnagar district bears a picture of the MP CM on banner. Shop owner Kailash Avvad recounts that the MP CM has visited his outlet around 15 times in the last decade, while on trips to Shirdi. Chouhan's love for his outlet prompted the owner to name the shop after Mama. Pilgrims coming from MP get special discounts at this sugarcane juice shop.

ANURAAG SINGH
Our correspondent in Madhya Pradesh
singhanuraag.jaurno@gmail.com

BHOPAL DIARY

Cong picks for RS poll may narrow down to 2 scions

The race for candidature within the Congress in the run up to the biennial Rajya Sabha polls in June in Madhya Pradesh, seems to be narrowing down to the sons of former stalwarts. Ex union minister and former state party chief Arun Yadav (son of ex-deputy CM Subhash Yadav) and former Opposition leader Ajay Singh (erstwhile CM Arjun Singh's son) seem to be the frontrunners – if the party choses to settle for leaders from the state. An OBC leader backed by ex-CM Digvijaya Singh, Arun Yadav has already started lobbying for RS polls, while Ajay Singh who lost in both 2018 assembly polls and 2019 LS polls, is also spending more time now in his pocket borough Churhat assembly seat of Sidhi district.

Minister says no to train travel for pilgrimage scheme

While the chief minister and other ministers of Madhya Pradesh prepare to accompany elderly pilgrims to Varanasi on April 19, a high-flying woman minister is reportedly unwilling to travel by train. The same minister had refused to travel by bus along with other ministers for the cabinet's recent marathon meeting in hill tourism hotspot Pachmarhi. According to reports, the minister expressed reluctance owing to lengthy travel .The ministers are to embark on the pilgrimage in three trains as part of the CM Teerth Darshan Yojana which will is set to resume after two years. The three woman ministers in the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government, include Meena Singh, Yashodhara Raje Scindia and Usha Thakur.

44,41,663
Ukrainians have fled their country since Russian invasion, says UN refugee agency

GLOBAL WEATHER

Beijing	29	14	LC	Los Angeles	23	14	SNY
Colombo	29	26	TDS	Melbourne	27	16	LC
Dhaka	36	27	TDS	Moscow	10	6	LR
Dubai	37	24	LC	New York	11	4	LC
Houston	28	21	LC	Singapore	31	26	TDS
Istanbul	22	8	SNY	Toronto	8	2	LC
London	14	6	LC	Washington	13	3	LC

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • SW: Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Pressure mounts on Lanka prez as thousands join stir

COLOMBO

TENS of thousands marched on beleaguered Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's office on Saturday, in the biggest protest to date over the country's dire economic and political crisis.

Sri Lanka's 22 million people have seen weeks of power blackouts and severe shortages of food, fuel and other essentials in the country's worst downturn since independence in 1948.

Saturday's social-media organised protest drew the largest numbers since the crisis blew up last month. And pressure on Rajapaksa intensified further as the country's powerful business community also began withdrawing support for the president. Men and women poured onto Colombo's seafront promenade and laid siege to the colonial-era Presidential Secretariat, chanting "Go home Gota" and waving the national lion flag.

Protesters take part in a demonstration in Colombo on Saturday | AFP

Others carried handwritten placards that read "It's time for you to leave" and "enough is enough." Barricades blocked the entrance to the president's office with police in riot gear taking up positions inside the tightly guarded compound.

"These are innocent people here. we are all struggling to live. The government must go and allow a capable person to lead the country," one man told the crowd. The protests appeared to be peaceful, but a police official said teargas and water cannon were at the ready if needed. On Friday security forces fired water cannon at demonstrating students. Residents said there were widespread protests in the suburbs of the capital too while the Catholic and Anglican churches also brought their followers onto the streets. The head of the Catholic Church, Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith led a protest in the town of Negombo, just north of Colombo, urging people to continue protesting till the Rajapaksa administration resigned. *AFP*

EXPRESS READ

Civilians continue to flee eastern Ukraine after rly station attack

KRAMATORSK: Evacuations resumed on Saturday from the town in eastern Ukraine where a missile strike killed 52 people at a railway station as civilians fled a feared Russian offensive. Six weeks into Russia's invasion, Moscow has shifted its focus to eastern and southern Ukraine after stiff resistance ended plans to swiftly capture Kyiv. Civilians trapped in the region have faced brutal conditions, and EU leaders met with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in a show of support as news emerged of the devastating attack on Kramatorsk's station. The 52 victims included five children. With thousands killed in fighting and more than 11 million fleeing their homes or the country, Zelenskyy said the strike marked a fresh atrocity and called called for a "firm global response" to the bloody incident. "This is another Russian war crime for which everyone involved will be held accountable," he said. AFP

Go to India if you like it so much: Opposition leader to Imran

Islamabad/Lahore: Pakistan's Opposition leader Maryam Nawaz on Saturday lashed out at Prime Minister Imran Khan for lavishing praise on India, saying he should go to the neighbouring country if he likes it so much. Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Vice-President Maryam Nawaz, who is the daughter of deposed prime minister Nawaz Sharif, also suggested that Khan should emulate the example of India where no prime minister has abrogated the Constitution while facing a no-confidence motion. Her remarks came after Khan called India a "nation with a great sense of honour". Khan, in an address to the nation on Friday night, said that he was not against India. "No superpower can force India to do anything against its interests. They (India) are buying oil from Russia despite sanctions," he said. PTI

Indian student shot dead in Canada

TORONTO

A 21-YEAR-OLD Indian student has been shot dead by an unidentified man at the entrance of a subway station here in Canada while he was on his way to work, police said.

The victim, identified as **Kartik Vasudev**, was shot on Thursday evening at the Glen Road entrance to Sherbourne TTC station in St James Town. Vasudev received medical attention from an off-duty paramedic and was taken to a hospital where he died, the Toronto Police Service said in a statement. The homicide squad of the Toronto Police Service has taken over the investigation.

Investigators would like to speak to any witnesses that were in the area at the time, as well as any drivers or businesses that have camera footage, the police said. "We are shocked & distressed at the unfortunate killing of Indian student Kartik Vasudev in a shooting incident in Toronto yesterday," the Consulate General of India wrote in a statement posted on Twitter on Friday. "We are in touch with the family and will provide all possible assistance in the early repatriation of mortal remains," it said.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar expressed grief at the killing. "Grieved by this tragic incident. Deepest condolences to the family," Jaishankar tweeted.

Police said the suspect in the shooting is a Black male standing five-foot-six to five-foot-seven inches tall with a medium build. He was last seen carrying a handgun. This was city's 19th murder of the year. *PTI*

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Email:contact@kmml.com, URLwww.kmml.com

Competitive Tenders are invited for following. For more details please visit the E-Tendering Portal,https://etenders.kerala.gov.in or www.kmml.com

No	Tender Id	Items
1	2022_KMML_485154_1	For the supply of SS Pipe
2	2022_KMML_485653_1	For the supply of 16" Butterfly Control Valve-1 No.
3	2022_KMML_485642_1	For the supply of High Purity Magnesium Metal

Chavara: 08.04.2022 sd/-DGM(Mtls) For The Kerala Minerals And Metals Ltd

4	2022_KMML_482251_1	Operation & maintenance of Pre Concentration Plant II at MS Unit

Chavara: 08.04.2022 sd/-HOD(MS) For The Kerala Minerals And Metals Ltd

5	2022_KMML_485923_1	Land Preparation for Remediation in KMML

Chavara: 08.04.2022 sd/-HOU(TP/TSP) For The Kerala Minerals And Metals Ltd

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Phone No: 080-28391638 Email: ayyappaedutrust@gmail.com.

No SAEC/CBSE/ATL/2022 Date 06.04.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sealed Tenders are invited from eligible and experienced contractors registered in Karnataka. The tenderers to submit the tenders for the work noted in the below table in the format duly filled (In two separate sealed invelopes - Technical bid with EMD & Price bid indicating the same and placed in a common sealed envelope). The tender documents can be obtained from the office on payment of Rs.1,000/- by cash. For additional information the tenderers may contract the office during office working hours.

Sl. No	Details of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. In Lakhs)
1.	Construction of Building for ATAL TINKERING LAB at the terrace floor of our CBSE School at Medarahalli	40.00

The Tender Events are as under :

a)	Date of issue of Tender documents	11.04.2022 to 14.04.2022 from 10.00 am to 05.00pm
b)	Pre-Bid Meeting	15.04.2022 at 11.00 am at site
c)	Last Date for submission of Tenders	20.04.2022 up to 3:30 pm at our office
d)	Date & time of Opening of Technical Bid	20.04.2022 at 4.00 pm at our office
e)	Date & time of Opening of price Bid	22.04.2022 at 4.00 pm at our office

Note: Tenders submitted without the required qualification and EMD are liable to be rejected.

Secretary,
Sree Ayyappa Educational & Charitable Trust

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED
Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001. E-Mail id: crmd@cityunionbank.in, Phone: 0435-2432322, Fax: 0435-2431746

POSSESSION NOTICE (Immovable Properties)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **City Union Bank Ltd.**, having its **Administrative Office** at **No.24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001** and one of the Branch Offices at **No.295, Main Road, Opp. Mayura Bakery, Whitefield, Bengaluru, Bengaluru Urban - 560066** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(2) & (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated **24-01-2022** calling upon the borrowers **No.1) M/s. Sree Lagmamma Enterprises, 11, Thirumalashettyhalli Village, Samethanahalli Post, Hoskote Taluk - 560066. No.2) Mr. C. Raju, S/o. Mr. Chikkanna, No.303, Mallasandra, Hoskote, Bangalore - 560066. No.3) Mrs. Sunandamma, W/o. Mr. C. Raju, No.303, Mallasandra, Hoskote, Bangalore - 560066** to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice being **Rs.94,08,865/- (Rupees Ninety Four Lakh Eight Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty Five Only)** within **60 days** from the date of the said Notice with subsequent interest thereon from **21-01-2022** with monthly rests.

The borrowers above named having failed to repay the amount despite the receipt of the above referred statutory notice, NOTICE is hereby given to the borrowers above named and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the Property described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this 07th day of April 2022.

The borrowers above named in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of City Union Bank Ltd. for an amount of **Rs.96,68,310/- (Rupees Ninety Six Lakh Sixty Eight Thousand Three Hundred and Ten Only)** and interest thereon from **04-04-2022** till the repayment of entire dues.

The borrowers' attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Immovable Properties Mortgaged to our Bank
Schedule - A
Property - 1:- (Property Owned by Mrs. Sunandamma, W/o. Mr. C. Raju)

All that piece and parcel of land bearing Sy.No.2/1, Mallasandra Village, Kasaba Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore measuring 2 Guntas out of 1.30 Guntas and bounded on the:- East by - Balance Land in Same Sy.No., West by - Balance Land in Same Sy.No., North by - 20 ft. Road, South by - M.M. Lakshmana Murthi's Property.

Property - 2:- (Property Owned by Mrs. Sunandamma, W/o. Mr. C. Raju)

All that piece and parcel of vacant land bearing Site No.140 formed in No.188/2A situated at Koralur Village, Kasaba Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore measuring 1 Gunta out of 4 ¼ Guntas and bounded on the:- East by - Remaining land in Same Sy.No., West by - Nanjundappa's Property, North by - Govt. Road, South by - Murugesh's Property.

Place: Bangalore, Date: 07-04-2022 Authorised Officer

Regd. Office : 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, CIN - L65110TN1904PLC001287, Telephone No.0435-2402322, Fax: 0435-2431746, Website: www.cityunionbank.com

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LAKSHADWEEP ADMINISTRATION
INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS, KAVARATTI - 682 555

F.N0.15/04/2022-IPR Dated. 08.04.2022

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Department of Information & Public Relations, UTLA invites competitive E-Tender quotation from the interested registered agents for Designing and printing of Coffee Table Book, Lakshadweep. Bidders willing to participate in the tender shall visit the e-tender website **www.tendersutl.gov.in** in for participation. The last date and time for submission of bids is 3.00 PM on 29.04.2022.

For any help/query, please contact representative of the Department through email **lakinformationpublicity@gmail.com** or Telephone 04896 262207 and for any help in processing of e-tender please contact E-Tender helpdesk of **www.tendersutl.gov.in**

Sd/- PUBLICITY OFFICER
Information & Public Relations

Saptagiri Grameena Bank
(Public Sector RRB:Sponsored by Indian Bank,HO-Chittoor,AP)
Branch:THUGUNDRAM
(G D Nellore Mandal, Chittoor Dist., AP-517421)

DEMAND NOTICE
NOTICE U/S 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002

Sent on 19.03.2022 by Regd. Post / Courier to
[1] Sri E Surendra Chetty, C/o. E Lokesh Kumar, Borrower/Mortgagor, # 1214, 8th Cross, BELLANDUR, Karnataka-560 103
[2] Smt E Bhuvaneswari, C/o E Lokesh Kumar, Borrower/Mortgager, # 1214, 8th Cross, BELLANDUR, Karnataka-560 103
[3] Sri M Anjineyulu Chetty S/o Munirathnam Chetty, Guarantor, Thugundram, GD Nellore Mandal, ChittoorDist., AP, PIN -517 421.
Sub: Issue of Demand Notice under SARFAESI-NPA Loan account/s with Saptagiri Grameena Bank,Thugundram.
You committed default in repayment of Housing Loan to the tune of **Rs. 7,51,151/-**(Rupees Seven lakhs Fifty one thousand one hundred and fifty one only) as on 18.03.2022 with further interest at the agreed rate from 19.03.2022 till date of repayment.[Vide account reference No:50021915988].The Bank issued notice under the Act on 19.03.2022 calling upon you to repay the outstanding amount of **Rs.7,51,151/-** as on 18.03.2022. The notice was sent to you by Registered Post has NOT been acknowledged by you and returned by the postal department. You are called upon to pay **Rs.7,51,151/-** together with interest from 19.03.2022 till date of payment within 60 days from the date of this notice failing which bank will be constrained to exercise its rights of enforcement of security interest as against the secured assets given in the schedule hereunder. This notice is without prejudice to any other right remedy available to the Bank.
SCHEDULE: The specific details of the assets in which security interest is created are enumerated hereunder:
Mortgaged Assets: House Site and House therein bearing D no.13-136 in Sno.276/1 with an extent of 216 sq feet or 24 sq yards at Thugundram Village, GD Nellore Mandal, Chittoor District,AP.Bounded by:: East:House of Venkatesh Chetty s/o K Lakshmaiah Chetty; South:Vacant place of Bhajangagudi;West:Street;North:Street.

Place : Thugundram Sd/- Authozised Officer,
Date : 07.04.2022 Saptagiri Grameena Bank

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, MINISTRY OF FINANCE
INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE TAX RECOVERY OFFICER 3,
Room No.420, 4th Floor, Main Building, 121, M.G. Road, Aayakar Bhavan, Chennai-34 TEL: 044-28338543 / Mob: 9384636708
Email : chennai.tro3@incometax.gov.in

AUCTION SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY SITUATED AT AYANAVARAM

Notice is hereby given that the office of the undersigned has proposed to conduct an auction as per the provisions laid down in the 2nd Schedule of the Income tax Act, 1961 and sale of immovable property, which belongs to **M/s.Delta Projects (Partners of Shri. J. Annamalai & Smt.A.Priya Annapoorani), No.48/19,Rajamangalam Main Road, Villivakkam, Chennai - 600 049**, being income tax defaulter for the purpose of recovery of income tax arrears.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTIES

"An apartment bearing Flat No. C-156 on the Fifteenth Floor in Block 'C' together car parking space in the basement of the multistoried building complex known as "SUNNNYVALE", No.351, K.H. Road, Ayanavaram, Chennai, Flat measuring on extent of 1599 Sq.ft (plinth area of flat inclusive of share in common area) together with 485.99 Sq.ft undivided share of land described in the schedule D above within the registration Sub district of Anna Nagar and Registration District of Central Chennai".

Reserve price In Rupees : Rs.95,99,000/- plus poundage fee & costs

E.M.D in Rupees : Rs.1,00,000/-

DATE AND TIME OF AUCTION
18.04.2022 @ 11.00 AM
VENUE OF AUCTION
Income Tax Auditorium (Vaigai Hall) in the Income Tax Main Building Campus, Aayakar Bhavan, 121, M.G. Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai - 600034.

CONDITIONS:
1. The intending bidders are requested to deposit **Rs.1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Only)** as Earnest Money Deposit for the above property by means of Demand Draft in favour of **'Tax Recovery Officer-3, Income tax Dept., Chennai'** drawn on any schedule bank payable at Chennai before the beginning of actual auction proceedings, which is refundable to the parties except successful. The successful bidder shall pay immediately after such declaration, deposit of 25 % on the amount of his purchase money to the officer conducting sale, and in default of such deposit the property shall forthwith be put up again and resold. The full amount of purchase money payable should be paid by the purchaser to the undersigned on or before 15th day from the date of sale of property, exclusive of such day, or if the 15th day being a Sunday or other holiday, then on first office day after the fifteenth day. In default of payment within the period mentioned above, the property shall be resold after issue of fresh proclamation of sale.
2. The Property will be auctioned on **"as is where is and what is there is basis".**
3. The details of the property and the copy of the Encumbrance Certificate can be perused at the office of the undersigned on any working day prior to auction, after fixing an appointment with the undersigned during office hours.
4. Detailed terms and conditions of the auction sale may be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours.
5. The aforesaid property will not be sold below the Reserve Price of **Rs.95,99,000/-**

(C.D.Vejayalakshme)
Date: 01.04.2022 Tax Recovery Officer-3
Place : Chennai O/o. Pr.Commissioner of Income Tax-3, Chennai.

STATE BANK OF INDIA
DEVANAHALLI BRANCH (40032) PUTTANAGUDI BEEDHI, DEVANAHALLI, BANGALORE RURAL DIST.,562110,
Email Id: sbi.40032@sbi.co.in
PH: 8027682223 / 8027682243 / 8027682443

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable property) [Rule 8(1)]

HTL /A/c-No: 64062850132 / DRS

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of the **State Bank of India Puttanagudi Beedhi Branch (40032) Devanahalli,** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a **Demand Notice dated 10.01.2022 and Published in Newspaper on 18.01.2022** calling upon the **Borrowers : Sri. S. Ramamurthy, S/o. Late Subramani, No. 59, 7th A cross, 1st main, Attur Lay out, Yalahanka, Bangalore 560064, # 139, opp Govt Hospital Road, BBMP Ward No 1, 3rd New Street, Old Yalahanka, Bangalore - 560064,** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs.13,11,946/-(Thirteen Lakh Eleven Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Six Only)** within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the **undersigned has taken possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Sub Section 4 of Section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) **Rules, 2002 on this 08.04.2022**

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of the State Bank of India for an amount **Rs.11,76,704/- (Rupees Eleven Lakh Seventy Six Thousand Seven Hundred Four Only) as on 06.04.2022 and interest from 07.04.2022** & *charges thereon* till the realization of the dues. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub Section (8) of the Section 13 of the Act, in respect of, time available to redeem the secured Assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Property No.139, Katha No.139/166, Opp Govt Hospital Road, BBMP Ward No 1, West Division, 3rd New Street, Old Town Yalahanka Bangalore-560064, Measuring Total Area 590 sqft., Standing in the Name of **S. Ramamurthy**, bounded on **:- East by:** Road, **West by:** Property of Jayaramappa, **North by:** Property of Bachamma, **South by:** Property of Vishwanath.

Place : Devanahalli Sd/- Authorised Officer, STATE BANK OF INDIA
Date : 08-04-2022 Devanahalli Branch

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED
Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office: No.24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001. E-Mail id: crmd@cityunionbank.in, Phone: 0435-2432322, Fax: 0435-2431746

RE-TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

The following property/ies mortgaged to **City Union Bank Limited** will be sold in Re-Tender-cum-Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of a sum of **Rs.46,78,062/- (Rupees Forty Six Lakh Seventy Eight Thousand and Sixty Two Only)** as on **06-04-2022** together with further interest to be charged from **07-04-2022** onwards and other expenses, any other dues to the Bank by the borrowers / guarantors **No.1) Mr. M. Srinivas, S/o. Muniyappa, No.539, 7th Cross, Gokula 1st Stage, 2nd Phase, Near Bombay Dyeing, Bangalore - 560054. No.2) Mrs. Varalakshmi, W/o. Srinivas, No.539, 7th Cross, Gokula 1st Stage, 2nd Phase, Near Bombay Dyeing, Bangalore - 560054.**

Note:- That our **533 - Bengaluru-HSR Layout Branch** has also extended financial assistance (CUB OSL SPECIAL-BR:501812080065502) dated **06-06-2020** requested by No 1. of you for which No.2 of you stood as Co-obligant and No.1 of you stood as Guarantor for the facility for a Total Amount of **Rs.2,70,000/-** at a ROI of **13.25%.** The same has been also classified as **NPA** on **06-12-2020** and the outstanding balance as on **06-04-2022** is **Rs.1,18,736/- (Rupees One Lakh Eighteen Thousand Seven Hundred and Thirty Six Only)** plus further interest and penal interest of **2.00%** with monthly rests to be charged from **07-04-2022** till the date of realization.

Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank
(Property Owned by Mr. M. Srinivas, S/o. Muniyappa)

All that piece and parcel of Immovable Property No.27, Katha No.53, formed in Assessment 53/3, Bangalore, situated at Karivobanahalli Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, now coming under the Jurisdiction of Bruhat, Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Ward No.40, Bangalore along with building and bounded on the: East by : Road, West by : Chandraiah's Property, North by : Site No.1 and 2, South by : Site No.26, Measuring : East to West : 60 feet, North to South : 30 feet, Totally measuring : 1,800 Sq.ft. together with RCC roofed 1,800 Sq.ft. Ground Floor and 400 Sq.Ft. First Floor building constructed using Cement and Brick Walls, Jungle Wood Doors and Windows, Mosaic Flooring with all Civic Amenities..

Reserve Price : Rs.50,00,000/-
(Rupees Fifty Lakh Only)

RE-AUCTION DETAILS

Date of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale	Venue
10-05-2022	City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-HSR Layout Branch, No.1672/A, 14th Main Road, Ground Floor, Sector VII (Near BDA Complex, Opp. MAX Showroom), HSR Layout, Bengaluru - 560102. Telephone No.080 25726365, Cell No.7813026080.

Terms and Conditions of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale :
(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself / herself. **(2)** The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from **The Manager, City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-HSR Layout Branch, No.1672/A, 14th Main Road, Ground Floor, Sector VII (Near BDA Complex, Opp. MAX Showroom), HSR Layout, Bengaluru - 560102. (3)** The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to **The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd.,** together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of **10%** of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of **"City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before 12.00 Noon** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. **(4)** For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact **Telephone No.080-25726365 Cell No.7813026080. (5)** The property/ies are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever-there is" basis. **(6)** The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at **01.00 p.m.** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an Open Auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. **(7)** The successful bidder shall have to pay **25% (inclusive of EMD paid)** of the sale amount **immediately** on completion of sale and the balance amount of **75%** within **15 days** from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of **25%** shall be forfeited. **(8)** The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. **(9)** The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. **(10)** The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies. **(11)** The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Place: Kumbakonam, Date: 08-04-2022 Authorised Officer

Regd. Office: 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, CIN - L65110TN1904PLC001287, Telephone No.0435-2402322, Fax: 0435-2431746, Website: www.cityunionbank.com

MALABAR CEMENTS LIMITED
(A Government of Kerala Undertaking)
An ISO 9001 :2015, 14001:2015 Company, Walayar Post, Palakkad-678624-Kerala.
Email : materials@malabarcements.com/ bulkmcl@malabarcements.com

TENDER NOTICE
Visit **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in** for Online Submission of Bids for:
❖ Supply of Grease for Girth Gear. ❖ Supply of Arm Cylinder Assembly for Tata Hitachi Zaxis 450-1 Hydraulic Excavator. ❖ Supply of OTR Tyres Tubeless 1800 x 25. ❖ Supply of Swing Circle Assy and Bolts for Tata Hitachi Zaxis 450 Hydraulic Excavator. ❖ Supply of Explosives. ❖ Pre-monsoon preparations – Cutting and clearing of drains at plant. ❖ Monsoon protection work – Replacing of damaged sheets at Plant (2022)
Sd/- MANAGING DIRECTOR

Government of Karnataka
KARNATAKA FOREST DEPARTMENT
SIRSI DIVISION, SIRSI
Detailed Notification for e-Tender of Timber in GTD, Manmane & GTD, Chipgi of Sirsi Division, Sirsi
Karnataka Forest Code, 1978
APPENDIX-XVIII A (Rule 64)

No: A4/DTS/Apr Sale/CR-/2022-23 Date: 01.04.2022

It is hereby notified for the general information of the public that, the following kinds and quantity of timber and other forest produce stocked and lotted in the Govt. Timber Depot at Manmane of Siddapur Range and GTD, Chipgi of Sirsi Division Sirsi will be sold through the public e-tender cum auction method in one or more sessions from **20.04.2022, 21.04.2022, 22.04.2022 & 25.04.2022 from 10.00 A.M.** till the bidding for all lots is completed. The Sale Conducting Officer will be the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Sirsi Division Sirsi.

For any Clarifications, you can contact:
Range Forest Officer, GTD.Chipgi
gtdchipgi.srs@gmail.com Ph: 08384-236285
Range Forest Officer, Siddapur
rfosdp@gmail.com Ph: 08389-230202
Deputy Conservator of Forests, Sirsi Division, Sirsi
dcfsirsi@gmail.com Ph: 08384-226445

Sd/- Deputy Conservator of Forests, Sirsi Division, Sirsi
DIPR/KWR/MCA/44/22-23 Dt.08.4.2022

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED
Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office: No.24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001. E-Mail id: crmd@cityunionbank.in, Phone: 0435-2432322, Fax: 0435-2431746

RE-TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

The following property/ies mortgaged to **City Union Bank Limited** will be sold in Re-Tender-cum-Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of a sum of **Rs.63,06,723/- (Rupees Sixty Three Lakh Six Thousand Seven Hundred and Twenty Three Only)** as on **31-01-2022** together with further interest to be charged from **01-02-2022** onwards and other expenses, any other dues to the Bank by the borrowers / guarantors **No.1) M/s. Om Shakthi Tours and Travels, 3rd Main Road, Maruthi Complex, Hoysala Nagar, Opp. FMC Ramamurthy Nagar, Bangalore - 560016. No.2) Mr. C.P. Magesh Shankar, S/o. Mr. C.N. Paramasivan, 2nd Floor, Maruthi Complex, Hoysala Nagar, Ramamurthy Nagar, Bangalore - 560016. No.3) Mrs. Nethra Magesh, W/o. Mr. C.P. Magesh Shankar, 2nd Floor, Maruthi Complex, Hoysala Nagar, Ramamurthy Nagar, Bangalore - 560016.**

Notes:- (1) That our **318 - Bengaluru-Banaswadi Branch** has also extended Financial Assistance (FITL - ADHOC: 501912090018905) dated **17-10-2020** requested by No.1 of you represented by No.2 of you as Proprietor for the facility for a Total Amount of **Rs.1,15,000/-** at a ROI of **14.75%.** The same has been also classified as **NPA** on **05-12-2020** and the outstanding balance as on **31-01-2022** is **Rs.1,40,788/- (Rupees One Lakh Forty Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty Eight Only)** plus further interest and penal interest of **2.00%** with monthly rests to be charged from **01-02-2022** till the date of realization.

(2) That our **318 - Bengaluru-Banaswadi Branch** has also extended Financial Assistance (CREDIT CARD AGAINST LOAN: 512120020026592) dated **26-09-2018** requested by No.2 of you for the facility for a Total Amount of **Rs.1,00,000/-** at a ROI of **18%.** The same has been also classified as **NPA** on **15-12-2020** and the outstanding balance as on **31-01-2022** is **Rs.1,05,875/- (Rupees One Lakh Five Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy Five Only)** plus further interest and penal interest of **2.00%** with monthly rests to be charged from **01-02-2022** till the date of realization.

Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank
Property - 1: (Property Owned by Mr. C.P Magesh Shankar, S/o. Mr. C.N. Paramasivan)

All that piece and parcel of the Immovable Property bearing Site No.40 formed in Old Property No.84, New No.14, Khatha No.14/99 situated at Maragondanahalli Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk. Measuring:- East to West 40 ft. and North to South (29½ + 34)/2 totally measuring 1,270 Sq.ft. and bounded on the: East by - Site No.39, West by - Site No.41, North by - Road, South by - Private Property.

Reserve Price: Rs.38,00,000/-
(Rupees Thirty Eight Lakh Only)

RE-AUCTION DETAILS

Date of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale	Venue
10-05-2022	City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Banaswadi Branch, No.6, Ganesh Chambers, Dodda Banaswadi Main Road, Banaswadi, Bengaluru Urban - 560043. Telephone No.080-25455655, Cell No.9342448522.

Terms and Conditions of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale:
(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself / herself. **(2)** The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from **The Manager, City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Banaswadi Branch, No.6, Ganesh Chambers, Dodda Banaswadi Main Road, Banaswadi, Bengaluru Urban - 560043. (3)** The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to **The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd.,** together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of **10%** of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of **"City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before 12.00 Noon** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. **(4)** For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact **Telephone No.080-25455655, Cell No.9342448522. (5)** The property/ies are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever- there is" basis. **(6)** The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at **01.00 p.m.** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an Open Auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. **(7)** The successful bidder shall have to pay **25% (inclusive of EMD paid)** of the sale amount **immediately** on completion of sale and the balance amount of **75%** within **15 days** from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of **25%** shall be forfeited. **(8)** The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. **(9)** The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. **(10)** The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies. **(11)** The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Place: Kumbakonam, Date: 08-04-2022 Authorised Officer

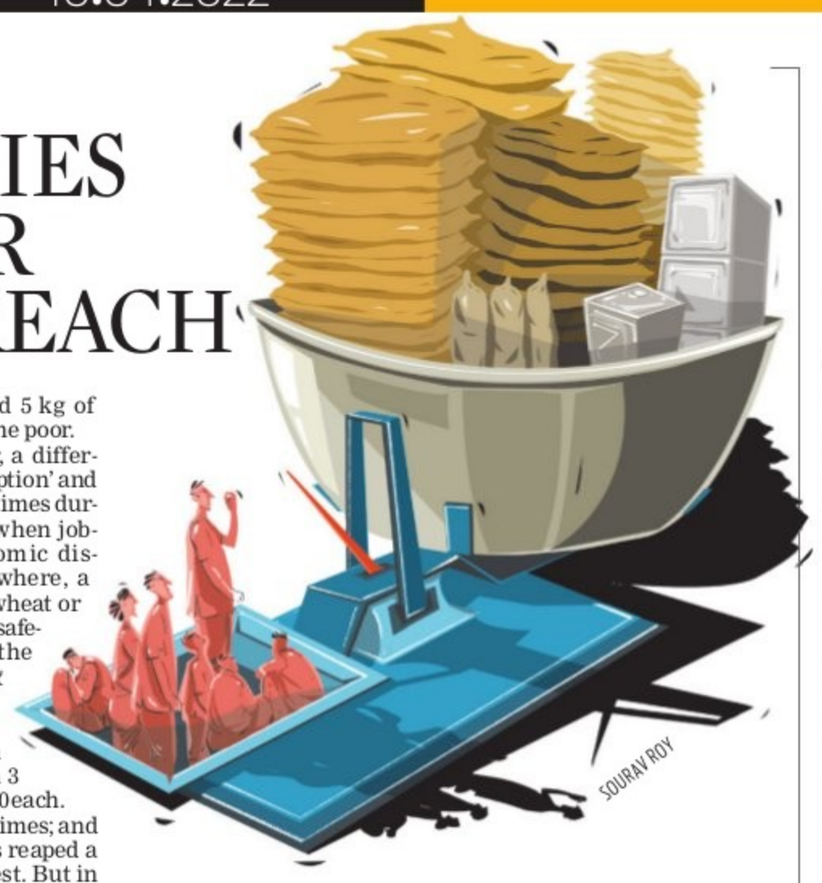
Regd. Office: 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, CIN - L65110TN1904PLC001287, Telephone No.0435-2402322, Fax: 0435-2431746, Website: www.cityunionbank.com

QuoteExpress THE SECRET OF GETTING AHEAD IS GETTING STARTED › MARK TWAIN

FOREX India's foreign exchange reserves dipped by $11.17 billion to $600.47 billion during the week ended April 1

NEWSCOPE

FOOD SUBSIDIES NEED DEEPER AND WIDER REACH



GURBIR SINGH

A recently released paper by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) argues that the government's food subsidy programme, contrary to popular perception, has been successful in easing the impact of the Covid crisis on the very poor. The food programme has also reduced 'extreme poverty' to negligible levels.

The paper – titled 'Pandemic, Poverty and Inequality: Evidence from India' – is authored by Surjit Bhalla, Executive Director, IMF for South Asia, and former member of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council; New York-based economist Karan Bhasin; and Arvind Virmani, former Chief Economic Adviser, Government of India.

Two of the three authors have worked for the Union government and have contributed to its economic policy-making. It is no surprise the paper's position is close to the thinking of the Union government.

It also appears the object of the paper is to question the widely quoted findings of the US' Pew Research Centre, which had claimed that 75 million Indians had been pushed into poverty in the first Covid-19 wave in 2020.

The position of the IMF paper seems to be supported by the election results in Uttar Pradesh (UP), where one of the big factors that played in the BJP's favour was the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) during the pandemic from March 2020 to March 2022. Under the scheme, the Centre provided 5 kg of free food grains to the poor.

There is however, a difference between 'perception' and 'facts'. In desperate times during the pandemic, when joblessness and economic disruption was everywhere, a free dole of 5kg of wheat or rice is a significant safety net. Similar is the cash transfer of ₹ 6,000 per year to poor farmers under the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi – in 3 installments of ₹2,000 each. It's a lifeline in bad times; and the ruling party has reaped a good electoral harvest. But in the long run, is this enough to ensure we have seen the back of poverty?

Cutback in outlays

If we examine the budget outlays, subsidies on food have been cut back. The pandemic is tapering off, and the bulk of the state elections would be over by March, so why commit scarce resources anymore? Perhaps, that's how government thinking unraveled. The budget presented by the FM projected overall subsidies at ₹3.18 lakh crore for FY2023, slashing more than a quarter of the revised budgetary estimate of ₹4.33 lakh crore for FY 2022. Food bore the bulk of the cutback, though fertilizer was pared down by 25% and petroleum subsidies by 11%.

In the case of support for food, the government allocated ₹2.06 lakh crore for FY23, which is 27% lower than ₹ 2.86 lakh crore in the previous financial year; and if one compares it to 2020-21, when the allocation for food subsidy was ₹5.41 lakh crore, the cutback is nearly 50%.

The Antyodaya Anna Yojna (AAY) – aimed at the poorest among those that live below the poverty line – are targeted for the bulk of the food subsidy. They are entitled to 35 kg of food grains at a heavily subsidized price of ₹2 per kg for wheat and ₹3 per kg for rice. National coverage was fixed at 67% of the population, split into 75% for rural and 50% for urban, with a ceiling of 60 million tonnes to be acquired and distributed by the Food Corporation of India (FCI).

Wider coverage needed

However, according to IndiaSpend.org, the coverage achieved in 2020 was only 59%, in contravention of the Nation Food Security Act target of 67%. Furthermore, the outdated 2011 census being the basis of determining the number of ration cards to be issued, has resulted in 100 million people being excluded from the public distribution system (PDS).

The pandemic, more than anything else, revealed that the demand for subsidized food was higher than government projections. With the additional free 5 kg food grain from March 2020, 94 million tonnes were distributed in 2020-21 and 80 M.T. in 2021-22.

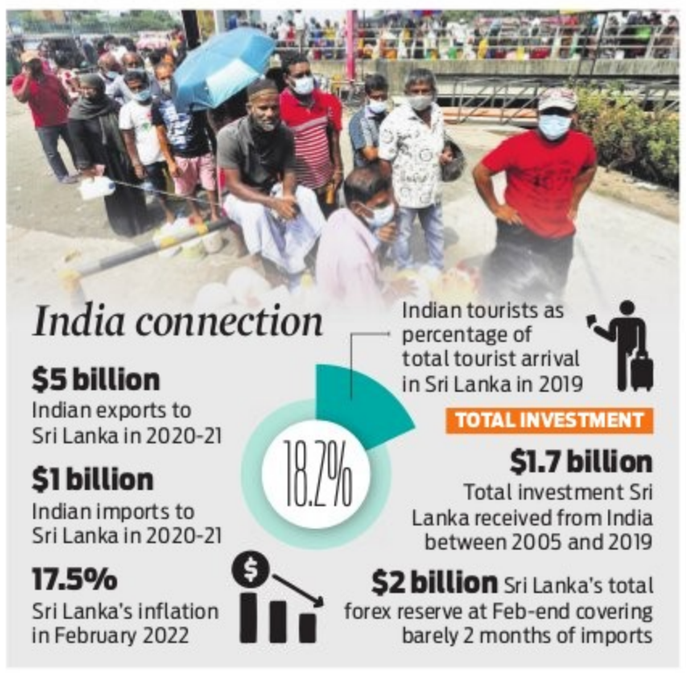
PDS is also limited to wheat and rice, to the exclusion of other coarse grain and pulses. While some percentage of pulses are imported and cannot be included in the present charter, broadening the offering under PDS is a must for the very poor. Similarly, there is a serious problem of leakages.

An old paper on problems of the PDS by the think tank ICRIER estimated that the "existing PDS system has been highly 'leaky', with large amounts of grains being pilfered and diverted to the open market." There is no alternative to the PDS to deliver food to the poorest. As much as 90% of below poverty line and Antyodaya families use their PDS quotas; on the other hand, undernutrition and malnutrition are most rampant among children of families not covered by PDS. The way forward obviously is to plug the 'leakages' and broaden its coverage to serve the poorest everywhere.

Sri Lanka crisis hits Indian exporters, tourism sector

India has extended a Line of Credit of $500 million to Sri Lanka

ARSHAD KHAN



THE timing of the Sri Lankan economic crisis could not have been worse for Indian businesses. The uncertainty due to the geopolitical crisis in eastern Europe is already taking a toll on exporters, travel and tourism industry and all other businesses in general, and now with the Sri Lankan economy floundering in the neighbourhood, things can't get bleaker.

The island nation is smaller in size but is of significant interest for India, both strategically and economically. Several Indian companies have a presence in the country. According to Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka, major investments from India are in the areas of petroleum, retail, IT, financial services, real estate, telecommunication, hospitality & tourism, banking and food processing, metal industries, tyre manufacturing, cement, glass manufacturing, infrastructure development (railway, power, water supply) etc.

Companies like Tatas, Bharti Airtel, Indian Oil, Mahindra & Mahindra and several Indian banks like SBI and Indian Overseas Bank operate in Sri Lanka. However, exporters and the travel and tourism industry are most affected by the recent crisis, it seems.

Exports

India is the biggest trading partner of Sri Lanka with around $6 billion annual trade. India had exported $5 billion worth of goods and services in 2020-21 with textile, metals & steel, ships and boats, capital goods being the major exports to Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka accounted for 1.3% of India's total exports in 2020-21.

The crisis (in Sri Lanka) has hit most exports to the country barring the essential items like food and pharma goods, says Ajay Sahai, Director General and CEO of Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO). He adds it is a humanitarian crisis and the government of India must support Sri Lanka with financial help to ensure exports of essential items are not disrupted.

The Indian government has extended a Line of Credit (LoC) of $500 million to Sri Lanka for the purpose of financing purchase of petroleum products from India. Out of the total credit by Exim Bank under the agreement, goods, works and services of the value of at least 75% of the contract price will be supplied by the seller from India, and the remaining 25% of goods and services may be procured by the seller for the purpose of the eligible contract from outside India. Indian imports from Sri Lanka are small adding up to around $1 billion most of it comprising tea, coffee, spices, animal fodder, edible nuts, among others.

Travel and tourism

Tourism and hospitality industry is one of the major contributors to Sri Lanka's economy, approximately 12% to its GDP and is the fifth largest source of foreign revenue in the country. India plays a big role in this as the total number of tourist arrivals from India to Sri Lanka during pre-covid year (January-December 2019) was 355,002, or 18.2% of the total tourist arrivals into Sri Lanka. The current economic turmoil in Sri Lanka is unlikely to benefit India when it comes to attracting tourists who are seeking an alternative. According to travel industry experts, increased airfares are a big concern for leisure travel and that other South Asia nations are better placed to attract tourists, thanks to their friendly policies.

"In normal course (referring to the current crisis in Sri Lanka), it should have benefitted India but the countries like the UK which have high number of people travelling to Lanka, don't have an E-visa arrangement with India, and with Easter Holidays around, I am afraid we won't benefit much," said Rajiv Mehra, President, Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO). Mehra added that the current airfares are exorbitantly high and leisure travel has been hugely impacted by this.

A one-way economy class flight between Mumbai and London is costing a traveller anywhere between Rs 30,000-40,000 if one has plans to travel in the next one week. Non-stop flights may even cost Rs 10,000 extra. According to a travel agency executive, tourist inflow in the island nation has been on a downward trajectory since the Easter bombings that took place in April 2019.

He said, "After the attacks, Covid-19 pandemic wiped out tourism in Lanka and now when the global tourism industry is showing signs of recovery, Sri Lanka has gone into a deep economic crisis."

When asked if India's tourism sector stands to gain from this, the executive said that some pockets such as Kerala, the Andamans and Goa are seeing increased interest, but for foreign travelers, Sri Lanka has always offered a different experience, thanks to its excellent beaches. TNIE contacted several Indian companies with business exposure in Sri Lanka, but they declined to comment on the issue.

India, which hasn't issued a warning as such, is also witnessing a lower flight movement between the two nations due to poor passenger load factor.

> **The crisis in Sri Lanka has hit most exports to the country barring the essential items like food and pharma goods. The Indian government must support Sri Lanka.**
>
> Ajay Sahai, CEO of FIEO

Bank-owned mutual funds have an edge over others

UMA KANNAN @ Bengaluru

WITH an aim to serve more customers and also to address all their financial requirements, banks are either launching or partnering/ acquiring Asset Management Companies (AMCs) and insurance subsidiaries.

Recently, Bandhan Financial Holdings Limited (BFHL), investment firms GIC and ChrysCapital signed an agreement with IDFC Limited to acquire its AMC and also IDFC AMC Trustee Company for a consideration of ₹4,500 crore.

Anil Singhvi, chairman of IDFC Limited said the Bandhan consortium with its strong brand and resources will further strengthen distribution of products and improve overall experience for IDFC AMC's investors and distributors.

Analysts who are tracking banks' acquisitions said one of the main advantages of this is value building. "If you are a pure play banker and you also have financial services offering, the banks' valuation typically increases. Also, bank customers are more in numbers compared to AMC customers, and you can sell AMC products to them and also earn commission," an analyst said.

Bank of Baroda is a majority shareholder of IndiaFirst Life Insurance Co. In the asset management space, the bank recently entered into a strategic partnership with BNP Paribas Asset Management, combining the strengths of their respective asset management businesses in India, to form Baroda BNP Paribas Mutual Fund.

Vikramaditya Singh Khichi, Executive Director, Bank of Baroda, said banks offer a comprehensive range of financial products and services to customers with an objective of addressing their financial goals.

"Increasingly, customer preference trends indicate inclination towards opting for a financial institution that can address a customer's composite financial requirements. Banks, being trusted and reputed organisations in the finance sector have the ability to cater to these varied requirements by offering financial products ranging from deposits, credit, investments to protection," he said.

Mutual fund and insurance subsidiaries enable banks to tap the potential by providing specialised, value-added financial services to investors and thereby expand the customer base.

Banks can tie up with a MF arm or have their own subsidiaries. Mostly, a large bank prefers to have its own subsidiary, as it is said to be a win-win situation for its customers as well as shareholders. From Kotak, HDFC, ICICI to SBI, all major banks have their own AMCs. Recently, Bank of India acquired a balance stake in BOI AXA Investment Managers.

As many as 11 of the 43 AMCs are owned by a bank or a banking joint venture. These 11 (excluding IDFC which also goes to a bank) AMCs together account for 41% of the ₹ 38.83 lakh crore of the industry AUM average at the end of March 2022.

Incremental value

Having MF and insurance subsidiaries allow the bank to add incremental value to its customers. The Indian market offers significant opportunity.

EXPRESS READ

TATA AIA Life Insurance partners with CSC

Bengaluru: Tata AIA Life Insurance has partnered with Common Services Centers (CSE), under the Ministry of Electronics & IT to engage its network of over 4 lakhs Village Level Entrepreneurs at the last mile for distribution of life insurance plan. Through its network, CSC will offer Tata AIA Life POS Smart Income Plus plan that provides the dual advantage of a life cover combined with savings, the company said in a statement.

KredX joins hands with ICICI Bank

Bengaluru: Supply chain finance company KredX has partnered with ICICI Bank to offer 'ICICI Bank - KredX Commercial Card', for B2B payments. The cashback card enables businesses to avail financial rewards instantly for all B2B payments, without incurring any additional cost, KredX said. Through this partnership, the company aims to disburse upwards of 2,000 crore B2B vendor payments per month, it added.

Street eyes IT major TCS as results season gets underway

RAM SAHGAL @ Mumbai

SMART traders and investors have pencilled in a 10% price range in software major Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), which kicks off the Q4 results on Monday. The share closed at ₹3,686 at BSE on Friday.

The stock could trade between ₹3,514 and ₹3,886 after the results. That is ₹186 movement up or down. According to IIFL Research, the company is estimated to post a 2.9% sequential rise in revenue at ₹50,326 crore, a 20 basis point Q-o-Q rise in operating profit margin at 24.9% and 2.2% jump in net profit at ₹9,983.4 crore.

The Street will look out specifically for the nature and trajectory of deal wins, with short cycle deals likely to drive revenue growth. Supply side pressure and robust employee hiring could impact the operating margin. Any beat on estimates will drive up the stock. For instance, the Nifty has gained 13.5% from its March low through 17,784 on April 8. Over the same time the TCS stock has risen just 2.4% through ₹3,686.

The company's ₹18,000 crore buyback offer which concluded last month was subscribed 7.5 times due to its attractive price at ₹4,500 per share. The stock at ₹3,686 trades below its 50, 100 and 200 day moving averages, showing the Street preference for banking and metals rather than IT most recently.

Analysts expect that the beaten down IT sector could potentially start performing, depending on the performance of majors like TCS and Infosys this week.

CASH FLOW FROM OPERATIONS

5G services roll-out: Only 34% mobile towers connected with fibre

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

MANY parts of the country will not be able to avail the 5G services in 2022, as Telecom Service Providers could only connect 7,93,551 towers by optical fibre in the country.

Telecom operators have to fiberise 2.3 million Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) installed on mobile towers to cover the entire population. "Telecom Service Providers fiberise their Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) installed on mobile towers and 7,93,551 BTSs have been connected by optical fibre in the country as on 1 February 2022," informed Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw in the Lok Sabha.

The telecom ministry is hopeful to launch the 5G services in the country before 15 August 2022. However, for rolling out the proper 5G services in the country, fiberisation of mobile networks is essential. But telecom service providers could only fiberise 34% of the tower with optical fibre.

The major obstacle in fiberisation of telecom towers are high charges, complex process and delay involved in getting Right of Way (RoW) permissions due to non-alignment of ROW Policy of States with Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules, 2016 notified by the Central Government.

The government said it is facilitating the telcos for laying optical fibre by means of addressing RoW challenges and creating a collaborative institutional mechanism between Centre, States and Local Bodies for Common Right of Way, standardisation of costs and timelines for approval, and removal of barriers for grant of approvals.

TAGLINE CONCERNS

Delhi HC dismisses Red Bull plea against Pepsi tagline

PTI @ New Delhi

THE Delhi High Court has dismissed an application by Red Bull seeking to injunct Pepsi from using tagline "Stimulates Mind. Energizes Body." for its energy drink Sting.

The court said plaintiff Red Bull has failed to establish a prima facie case in its favour and balance of convenience is also in favour of defendant Pepsico India Holdings Pvt Ltd for not granting interim injunction as the products of the defendants have been selling in the market with this tagline for almost five years.

Red Bull sought interim injunction against Pepsico, restraining it from using the tagline "Stimulates Mind. Energizes Body.", which is claimed to be deceptively similar to the plaintiff's registered trademark/ tagline "Vitalizes Body And Mind".

In 2018, Red Bull had filed a trademark suit in the high court for its mark "Vitalizes Body and Mind." against PepsiCo's use of its tagline for its energy drink product Sting. Red Bull claimed that the marks are similar and Pepsi's use of the tagline amounts to infringement and passing off its trademark. It had argued that the mark had acquired distinctiveness and secondary meaning, thus entitled to protection.

Leclerc takes pole for Australian GP

Ferrari driver Charles Leclerc claimed his second pole position of the year with a blistering final lap in qualifying for the Australian Grand Prix on Saturday. Leclerc posted a time of 1 minute, 17.868 seconds to edge Red Bull driver and defending series champion Max Verstappen by .286 seconds. Red Bull driver Sergio Perez qualified in third position.

LOCAL EXPRESS

Roots thrash Jayaraj FC

BENGALURU : Roots FC thrashed Jayaraj FC 21-0 in the KSFA C Division League match here on Saturday. KR Shashwath scored five goals while Vishal R had four against his name. K Madan Kumar also managed a hat-trick. In one of the other matches Yelahanka Camp Boys beat Pass FC 2-1.

RCBANG ON THE MONEY

Rawat's first IPL fifty, bowlers' overall effort help RCB post comfortable win vs struggling MI

ASHIM SUNAM @ Bengaluru

IT is not new when people talk about Mumbai Indians' poor start in the IPL. Coming into Saturday's match, their record in the 15th edition read three losses out of three as they prepared to face Royal Challengers Bangalore at the MCA Stadium in Pune. Though the Rohit Sharma-led side has gotten out of such positions, with ten teams in the fray, it is a different story altogether.

The story had been quite different for Bangalore this season in their first three games. In the past, Bangalore have failed to win tight games, but they came into Saturday's contest, clinching two wins from difficult situations.

If Mumbai were looking to pick up their first win, RCB were eyeing a statement win. The latter clinched their third straight game via a seven-wicket win while for Mumbai, it was their fourth straight loss.

So, how has Bangalore become an impressive unit? There is a new-found belief in the team under Faf Du Plessis. There is an air of confidence in their bowling unit. They also have the bowlers for different conditions. If David Willey can control the new ball, Mohamed Siraj has the ability to provide early breakthroughs. Add Harshal Patel and Wanindu Hasaranga, they are a dangerous bowling unit. Mumbai got a fine taste of Bangalore's new bowling variety as they were restricted to 151/6 despite Suryakumar Yadav's 37-ball 68.

Bangalore chased down the target in the 19th over with a big contribution from Anuj Rawat. The left-hander finally showcased his potential with a 47-ball 66, which included two fours and six sixes. He looked in comfort able against both the pacers and spinners. Virat Kohli also played his part with 48 runs. This win has helped Bangalore move to third place. The batters might have finished the game, but it was set up by the bowlers.

Though Mumbai openers — Rohit and Ishan Kishan — started well, scoring 49 in the powerplay, Bangalore did not panic. With bowlers like Patel and Hasaranga, the management knows about the duo's ability to succeed in all situations. That is exactly what happened as Mumbai lost wickets at regular intervals.

As Patel dismissed Rohit, RCB players were pumped. The Bangalore bowlers might have bowled in tight areas, but one also needs to applaud the captaincy of Du Plessis, who attacked with a slip and applied pressure on the batters. The Sri Lankan leg-spinner scalped the big wickets of Dewald Bravis and Kieron Pollard. Patel also took two wickets. With six wickets down for 79, all eyes were on Suryakumar, who hit four sixes in the last two overs to put up a respectable total. That, however, was not enough.

Brief scores: Mumbai Indians 151/6 in 20 ovs (Suryakumar 68 n.o; Harshal 2/23, Hasaranga 2/28) lost to RCB 152/3 in 18.3 ovs (Rawat 66, Kohli 48).

TODAY'S MATCHES
DC VS KKR @3.30 PM, MUMBAI
RR VS LSG @7.30 PM, MUMBAI

SRH open account

Youngster Abhishek Sharma scored 75 off 50 balls to power Sunrisers Hyderabad to an eight-wicket victory over Chennai Super Kings earlier on Saturday. Batting first, CSK scored 154 for 7 but SRH surpassed the target in 17.4 overs.

Brief scores: CSK 154/7 in 20 ovs (Moeen 48, Washington 2/21) lost to SRH 155/2 in 17.4 ovs (Abhishek 75, Bravo 1/29).

Tale of India women's run to Jr WC semifinal

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @ Chennai

ON the eve of the junior World Cup in Potchefstroom in early December, Khushboo was all set and ready. She had packed her kit, counted her bags and checked her passport multiple times. She was hopeful that the tournament would be her pathway to senior time. Of course, Khushboo wasn't the only player harbouring such dreams. The team scheduled to fly out to South Africa had a lot of rookies in terms of having zero senior international experience. Apart from Khushboo, fellow keeper, Bichu Devi, vice-captain, Ishika Chaudhary, Akshata Dhekale, Marina, Preeti, Priyanka, Ajmina Kujur, Baljeet Kaur, Reet, Vaishnavi Phalke, Beauty Dungdung, Deepika, Mumtaz Khan, Sangita Kumari and Jiwan Toppo were in the same boat.

Omicron temporarily put a stop to their best-laid plans. While the three Olympians in the original touring party — Salima Tete, Lalremsiami and Sharmila Devi — had already experienced this when the Tokyo Games was pushed back, the others were feeling this for the first time. In hindsight, the postponement of the junior World Cup has worked out well for them. Out of the 15, Bichu, Chaudhary, Dhekale, Deepika and Sangita made their debuts for the senior team at the Asia Cup or in the subsequent Pro League games. Put it this way. Out of the 20 that have travelled to South Africa, 40 per cent of the players have senior international caps (it was 15 per cent originally). The nervousness, fear factor or going into the unknown, call it what you want, wasn't there when the team flew to South Africa in late March. Chaudhary pretty much admitted this before the women's quarterfinal against South Korea. "I got a chance to perform at the senior level," she said. "Getting opportunities to play in the Pro League provided us that advantage. Many of our junior team made debuts (for the seniors). The confidence we gained from it is helping us now." They will need to carry forward that confidence against the Netherlands in the semifinal on Sunday. For Netherlands, who have three gold, one silver and a bronze, are the high priests of this event.

Another thing that's helped this team reach this stage is the bond and the existing culture within, the players know each other like the back of their own hands. As the juniors and the seniors trained together in Bengaluru and played many practice matches, especially before the Olympics, there is a common theme (playing style, structure and combination) between both camps. "We tried and tested a lot of combinations in practice matches against the seniors," Tete said before the quarterfinal.

That culture has also fostered a sense of togetherness in the squad. Chaudhary spoke about the fact that a vast majority of the squad has trained under one roof for the last four to five years. Eight of the nine that medalled at the Youth Olympics in Argentina in 2018 will be aiming to become the first women's team at any level to reach a global FIH final.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

43
Netherlands have scored 43 unanswered goals in the first four matches

Semifinals (all on Sunday)
India vs Netherlands
England vs Germany

Familiar rivals TN & Punjab meet in final

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @ Chennai

TAMIL NADU and Punjab, one of the most played recent fixtures in the final of the senior basketball nationals (men), will face each other for the sixth time since 2000. After Punjab eased past Karnataka, the hosts held their end of the bargain by wiping the floor with Indian Railway.

The match was touted to be close but the nine-time champions, led by India international H Muin Bek, opened up a big lead in the first quarter and never surrendered that advantage. Muin, who doesn't have the physique of a cager, makes up for that with the way he shoots from three point range. At the Nehru Indoor Stadium on Saturday, his three three-pointers in the opening nine minutes set the game up perfectly. In all, he scored a game high 26 points to help TN win 93-70. Punjab, battling indifferent form, rose to the occasion with a no-frills 88-78 win over Karnataka.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

RESULTS (ALL SEMIFINALS)

Men: Tamil Nadu bt Indian Railway 93-70, Punjab bt Karnataka 88-78

Women: Indian Railway bt TN 115-88, Telangana bt Kerala 81-78

Twin gold for Indian squash stars

ENS @ Chennai

INDIA created history by winning their first ever gold medal — before adding another one an hour later — at the World Doubles Squash Championships in Glasgow on Saturday. The returning Dipika Pallikal, who played her last event in October 2018 (US Open) before taking an extended break, teamed up with Saurav Ghosal to win the mixed doubles title before repeating the same feat with Joshna Chinappa for the women's doubles title.

"Didn't expect much, was just happy to be here," she told the tournament presenter after the gold-laden day. The 30-year-old conceded that the wins will act as a stepping stone for the Commonwealth Games (CWG) and the Asian Games.

Dipika first clinched the mixed doubles title with Ghosal with an 11-6, 11-8 win over England's Adrian Waller and Alison Waters. An hour and a half later, Dipika and Joshna triumphed in the women's doubles final after a hard-fought 11-9, 4-11, 11-8 win over England's Sarah Jane Perry and Waters. "We are both really glad to have won this week," Ghosal said. "A lot of planning and work went in to it. We've also learnt a lot through the week and there are things we can work on and improve in the next couple of months," he added.

EXPRESS READ

Boxing: Govind, Ananta and Sumit strike gold

NEW DELHI: Indian boxers Govind Sahani (48kg), Ananta Pralhad Chopde (54kg) and Sumit (75kg) struck gold at the Thailand Open in Phuket, on Saturday. Amit Panghal (52kg) and Monika (48kg), Varinder Singh (60kg) and Ashish Kumar (81kg) ended their campaigns with a silver medal each.

Korea Open: Sindhu, Srikanth lose in semis

SUNCHEON : PV Sindhu and Kidambi Srikanth went down in straight games at the Korea Open Super 500 badminton tournament here. Sindhu suffered her fourth successive defeat to 20-year-old An Seyoung, losing 14-21, 17-21. Srikanth came up short against Jonatan Christie, going down 19-21, 16-21.

Doorvani to meet Sir Syed Cricketers in final

BENGALURU: Dooravani Cricketers defeated Vultures Cricket Club by five wickets to reach the KSCA Group I - II and II division U-14 years final. They will meet Sir Syed Cricketers in the title-decider. After Kashish Bahuguna's five wicket haul, Vultures ended with 198 for 9, and Dooravani reached the target in the 43rd over as Shivu M remained unbeaten on 97. Sir Syed beat Vijaya Cricket Club by 30 runs in the other semifinal.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, **C. Shankara Reddy,** S/o. Late. Subbarayappa, Aged about 68 years, residing at No.4, 4th Cross, 'G' Block, Sahakaranagara, Bangalore - 92, is hereby inform the public that I am the owner of the property bearing Site No.559, BBMP Katha No.559, measuring East to West 40 fts, North to South 60 fts, totally measures 2400 Sq.fts, bounded on the East by : Site No.558, West by : Site No. 560, North by : Road and South by : Sites No.562 & 563, Situated at N.T.I. Housing Co-Op. Society Ltd., Rajiv Gandhi Nagar, 2nd Phase, Bangalore - 92, acquired under a registered sale deed dated.12-05-1997 from my vendor N.T.I. Housing Co-Op. Society Ltd., Rept by its Secretary and it was registered vide Document No.1102/1997-98, Book-I, Volume 867, pages No.175-180, dated.01-07-1997, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Yelahanka, Bangalore. On 25-01-2021 while shifting my house from Kathriguppe to Sahakaranagara, at that time the above said document has been lost and I could not able to trace the same in spite of my best efforts. In this regard I have also lodged the police complaint dated.12-04-2021 vide Report No.091179/2021 before the Crime branch, Bangalore city police. Hence, I request the public that if any one finds the said original document of the above said property, the same may be returned to me to the below mentioned address.

C. Shankara Reddy,
S/o. Late. Subbarayappa,
R/ at No.4, 4th Cross, 'G' Block,
Sahakaranagara, Bangalore-92.
Mob: 93412 27029

QuoteExpress IF YOU'RE GOING THROUGH HELL, KEEP GOING WINSTON CHURCHILL

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client has entered into an Agreement for purchase of the Schedule Property herein below mentioned from its owner **M/s Agarwal Brothers Steel Rolling Mills,** a Partnership Firm, having its office at old No.92, New No.21, Industrial Suburb, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore-560022. Any person/ s and firm/ s having any objection, right or claim over the Schedule Property may object or lodge their claim within **SEVEN days** from the date of this publication, with documentary proof, failing which my client would proceed to purchase the Schedule Property and any claim received thereafter would not be binding on my client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the **Property bearing old No.92, New No.21,** having **Property ID.No.10-1-21,** situated at **Industrial Suburb,** Yeshwanthpura, Mahalakshmipuram Ward, Bangalore-560022, measuring **East to West 186 feet** and **North to South 112 feet, totally measuring 20832 square feet** and bounded by: **East by:** Road, **West by:** Property bearing No.83, **North by:** Property bearing old No.91, New No.20, **South by:** Property bearing old No.93, New No.22.

ASHOK KUMAR. H.V. B.A.L.,L.L.B., **ADVOCATE,** No.110, 1st Floor, Amar Towers, 1st Cross, Gandhinagar, Bangalore-560009. PH- 9844377103

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified to the public that our client **Smt.Mary Margaret D'Mello,** who is the absolute owner of the SCHEDULE PROPERTY, has revoked the General Power of Attorney dated 31.12.2016 executed in favour of Smt.Mary Nakshatra in respect of the Schedule Property bearing Document No.00427/ 2016-17, Book 4, stored in CD No. SHVD239, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Shivajinagar registered on 02.01.2017, through Registered Deed of Revocation of Power of Attorney dated 04.04.2022 bearing Document No.18/ 2022-23, Book 4, stored in CD No. INRD1045, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Indiranagar. Therefore the said Mary Nakshatra has no authority to deal with the Schedule Property in any manner. If anyone deals with the Schedule Property on the basis of the above General Power of Attorney, they shall do so at their own risk and our client shall not be responsible for the same.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing **site No.51, being a Northern portion of old Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, Khata No. 1246/ 1192/ 513/ 51 & 52, bearing new Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Khata No.1246/ 1192/ 513/ 51, 52/1, in a Layout known as "Ferns Enclave", formed in converted Survey No. 29/8 & 29/9, situated at Kasavanahalli village, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, BBMP Ward No.150,** measuring East 40 Feet, West 40 Feet, North 68 Feet and South 67'-2 Feet and bounded by: **East by :** Private Property; **West by :** Private Road; **North by :** Private Property; **South by :** Site No.52, being Southern portion of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Khata No.1246/1192/ 513/51 & 52

MANMOHAN P.N. Advocate
No.105, "A" Wing, 1st floor,
Blue Cross Chambers, Infantry Cross Road,
Bengaluru-560001. Mob: 9902578830

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED
CUB TRUST AND EXCELLENCE SINCE 1904
Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office: No.24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001. **E-Mail ID:** crmd@cityunionbank.in, **Phone:** 0435-2432322, **Fax:** 0435-2431746

RE-TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

The following property/ies mortgaged to **City Union Bank Limited** will be sold in Re-Tender-cum-Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of a sum of **Rs.66,30,152/- (Rupees Sixty Six Lakh Thirty Thousand One Hundred and Fifty Two Only)** as on **21-10-2021** together with further interest to be charged from **22-10-2021** onwards and other expenses, any other dues to the Bank by the borrowers / guarantors **No.1) M/s. K.B.S. Engineering Works, No.52, 4th Cross, 4th Main Road, Kote Street, Yelahanka Old Town, Bangalore North, Bangalore - 560064. No.2) Mr. G. Muniraju, S/o. Mr. Gopalappa, No.58, 3rd Ward, Ramgondanahalli, Yelahanka, Bangalore - 560064. No.3) Mrs. G. Sindhu, W/o. Mr. G. Muniraju, No.58, 3rd Ward, Ramgondanahalli, Yelahanka, Bangalore - 560064.**

Note:- That our **237-Bengaluru Yelahanka Branch** has also extended Financial Assistance (CUB OSL SPECIAL-BR:501812080059395) dated **30-12-2019** requested by No.1 of you represented by No.2 of you as Proprietor for which No.3 of you stood as Co-obligant and No.3 of you stood as Guarantor for the facility for a total amount of **Rs. 11,50,000/-** at a ROI of **15.75%.** The same has been also classified as **NPA** on **04-05-2020** and the outstanding balance as on **21-10-2021** is **Rs.15,42,801/- (Rupees Fifteen Lakh Forty Two Thousand Eight Hundred and One Only)** plus further interest and penal interest of **2.00%** with monthly rests to be charged from **22-10-2021** till the date of realization.

Immovable Properties Mortgaged to our Bank
Schedule - A: (Properties Owned by Mrs. G. Sindhu, W/o. Mr. G. Muniraju)

Item No.1:- All that piece and parcel of the converted land property bearing Sy.No.3/1B, measuring 0-14 Guntas situated at Pantharapalya Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, East by : Private Property, West by : Sy.No.2/1 of H. Ramaiah , North by : Mysore Road, South by : Sy.No.3/1A.

Item No.2:- All that piece and parcel of the converted land property bearing Sy.No.3/1C, measuring 1 Acre 13 Guntas situated at Pantharapalya Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, East by : Sy. No.4/1, West by : Property of Chikkahanumaiah and Muddappa, North by : Sy. No.3/1A, South by : Sy. No.6 of Chikkavenkatappa.

Item No.3:- All that piece and parcel of the converted land property bearing Sy.No.5, measuring 0-16.85 Guntas situated at Pantharapalya Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, East by : Rajakaluve / Nala, West by : Sy. No.3/1C, North by : Sy. No.4, South by : Sy. No.6 of Chikkavenkatappa.

Item No.4:- All that piece and parcel of the converted land property bearing Sy. No.2/1, measuring 0-3½ Guntas situated at Pantharapalya Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, East by Sy. No.3/1B, West by : Remaining property in Sy. No. 2/1 belonging to Bettegowda, North by : Mysore Road, South by : Sy. No.3/1C.

Schedule - B

All that piece and parcel of 567 sq. feet undivided right title and interest in the Schedule "A" property.

Schedule-C

Apartment No.202, on First Floor measuring super built-up area of 1,350 Sq. ft. in the building called "RADIANT KAREL" being constructed on the Schedule A property with the Floors, Ceiling and Walls between units jointly belonging to such Apartment owners equally along with common rights in respect of common areas and amenities with one covered Car Parking Area.

Reserve Price: Rs.45,00,000/-
(Rupees Forty Five Lakh Only)

RE-AUCTION DETAILS

Date of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale	Venue
09-05-2022	City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Yelahanka Branch, 324, 3rd A Cross, First Phase, Yelahanka New Town, Bangaluru - 560106. Telephone No.080-28463272, Cell No.9341005406.

Terms and Conditions of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale:
(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself / herself. **(2) The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from The Manager, City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Yelahanka Branch, 324, 3rd A Cross, First Phase, Yelahanka New Town, Bangaluru - 560106.** **(3)** The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to **The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd.,** together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of **10%** of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of **"City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before 12.00 Noon** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. **(4)** For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact **Telephone No.080-28463272, Cell No.9341005406.** **(5)** The property/ies are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever- there is" basis. **(6)** The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at **01.00 p.m.** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an Open Auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. **(7)** The successful bidder shall have to pay **25% (inclusive of EMD paid)** of the sale amount **immediately** on completion of sale and the balance amount of **75%** within **15 days** from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of **25%** shall be forfeited. **(8)** The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. **(9)** The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. **(10)** The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies. **(11)** The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Place: Kumbakonam, Date: 08-04-2022 **Authorised Officer**

Regd. Office: 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, **CIN -** L65110TN1904PLC001287, **Telephone No.**0435-2402322, **Fax:** 0435-2431746, **Website:** www.cityunionbank.com

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED
CUB TRUST AND EXCELLENCE SINCE 1904
Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001.
E-Mail id : crmd@cityunionbank.in, **Ph :** 0435-2432322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746

RE-TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

The following properties mortgaged to **City Union Bank Limited** will be sold in Re-Tender-cum-Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of the undermentioned security debts due to the Bank, together with further interest and other expenses, any other dues to the Bank by the borrowers / guarantors mentioned herein below:

PART - 1

Name of the Borrowers: No.1) Mr. B.S. Sridhar, S/o. B.V. Sathyanarayana, No.10/1, Obalappa Cross, Chikkamavalli, Basavangudi, Bangalore- 560004. **No.2) Mrs. B.S. Chithra,** W/o. B.S. Sridhar, No.10/1, Obalappa Cross, Chikkamavalli, Basavangudi, Bangalore - 560004.

Outstanding Liability Amount: Rs.45,75,300/- (Rupees Forty Five Lakh Seventy Five Thousand and Three Hundred Only) as on **26-09-2021** plus accrued interest to be charged from **27-09-2021** plus other expenses, any other dues to the Bank by the borrowers / guarantors.

Note:- That our **533 - Bengaluru - HSR Layout Branch** has also extended Financial Assistance (CUB OSL SPECIAL-BR : 501812080063263) dated **13-04-2020** requested by No 1. of you for which No.2 of you stood as Co-Obligant for the facility for a Total Amount of **Rs.2,10,000/-** at a ROI of **13.25%.** The same has been also classified as **NPA** on **14-12-2020** and the outstanding balance as on **26-09-2021** is **Rs.2,58,635/- (Rupees Two Lakh Fifty Eight Thousand Six Hundred and Thirty Five Only)** plus further interest and penal interest of **2.00%** with monthly rests to be charged from **27-09-2021** till the date of realization.

Description of the Immovable Properties Mortgaged to our Bank	Reserve Price	Date & Time of Auction
Schedule - A (Properties Owned by Mr. B.S. Sridhar, S/o. B.V. Sathyanarayana) All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing New Municipal No.27, (Old Property No.21/7 then 7), in PID No.53-79-27 and Residential Property bearing New No.21/6, in PID No.53-79-21/6, measuring East to West Northern side 70 feet, Southern side 60 feet, North to South Eastern side 60 feet, Western side 70 feet in all measuring 4,225 Sq.Ft., situated at 7th cross, Raghavendra Block, Srinagar, Bangalore, BBMP Ward No.53, presently coming under the administrative jurisdiction of BBMP, and bounded on : East by : Private property, West by : Private property, North by : Road, South by : Private property. **Schedule - B Property** 244 Sq.ft. Undivided Right, Title and Interest in the Immovable Property mentioned in Schedule - A property. **Schedule - C Property** Flat bearing No.003, in Ground Floor measuring about 1,044 Sq.ft. super built up area containing Two Bed Rooms, together with RCC Roofing, Granite Flooring together with One Covered Car Parking Space, including proportionate share in Common Areas such as Passages, Lobbies, Staircase, Lift, etc. in the Multi-storied Residential Building known as Shree Shaila Residency constructed over the Schedule - A Property.	₹ 50,00,000/- (Rupees Fifty Lakh Only)	10-05-2022 at 02.00 p.m.

PART - 2

Name of the Borrowers: No.1) Mr. B. Manjunatha, S/o. Basavaiah, No.7, 1st Cross, Mallige Thota, Choluru Palaya, Magadi Road, Bangalore- 560023. **No.2) Mrs. Sumathi,** W/o. B. Manjunatha, No.7, 1st Cross, Mallige Thota, Choluru Palaya, Magadi Road, Bangalore - 560023.

Outstanding Liability Amount : Rs.40,08,446/- (Rupees Forty Lakh Eight Thousand Four Hundred and Forty Six only) as on **27-09-2021** plus accrued interest to be charged from **28-09-2021** plus other expenses, any other dues to the Bank by the borrowers / guarantors.

Description of the Immovable Properties Mortgaged to our Bank	Reserve Price	Date & Time of Auction
Schedule - A (Properties Owned by Mr. B. Manjunatha, S/o. Basavaiah) All that piece and parcel of the Site bearing No.30, Katha No.700, BBMP Katha No.538/30, converted Sy.No.345/4, vide Order No.B.DIS.ALN SR(S) 91/2002-03, Dated **01-08-2002** issued by The Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore duly converted from Agricultural Residential purposes, situated at Begur Village, Begur Hobli, Banglaore South Taluk (Ward No.192), presently coming under Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Limits together with all the rights and appurtenances, whatsoever underneath or above surface and bounded on the : East by - Site Nos.20 and 21, West by : 30 feet Road, North by : Site No.29, South by : 30 feet, measuring : East to West : 50 feet, North to South : 47 feet, Totally measuring 2,350 Sq.ft. Comprising of Residential Apartment Building known and called as Aadya pride. **Schedule - B Property** 258 Sq.Ft. Undivided Share Right, Title and Interest in the Land comprised in Schedule A Property. **Schedule - C Property** Residential Apartment Flat No.1A in the First Floor, having a total super built up area of 1,300 Sq.ft. along with one covered car parking space in the Stilt Floor of the Multi-storied Building Residential Apartment known and called as Aadya pride, constructed on the Schedule - A Property inclusive of proportionate share in common areas such as Passages, Lobbies, Staircases, Set-back areas and other areas of common use with Concealed Wiring, Vitrified Tiles Flooring.	₹ 40,00,000/- (Rupees Forty Lakh Only)	10-05-2022 at 03.00 p.m.

Venue of Re- Tender-cum-Auction: City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru - HSR Layout Branch, No.1672/A, 14th Main Road, Ground Floor, Sector VII (Near BDA Complex, Opp. MAX Showroom), HSR Layout, Bengaluru - 560102. Telephone No.080-25726365 Cell No.7813026080.

Terms and Conditions of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale:-
(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself / herself. **(2)** The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from **The Manager, City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-HSR Layout Branch, No.1672/A, 14th Main Road, Ground Floor, Sector VII (Near BDA Complex, Opp. MAX Showroom), HSR Layout, Bengaluru - 560102.** **(3)** The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to **The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd.,** together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of **10%** of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of **"City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before 01.00 p.m. for PART - 1 & on or before 02.00 p.m. for PART - 2.** **(4)** For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact : **Telephone No.080-25726365, Cell No. 7813026080.** **(5)** The property/ies are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever-there is" basis. **(6)** The sealed Tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at **02.00 p.m. for PART - 1 & 03.00 p.m. for PART - 2** properties on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the Sale will be by way of closed Tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an open auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed Tender process, and in such an event, the Sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of **City Union Bank Limited.** **(7)** The successful bidder shall have to pay **25% (inclusive of EMD paid)** of sale amount **immediately** on completion of sale and the balance amount of **75%** within **15 days** from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of **25%** shall be forfeited. **(8)** The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. **(9)** The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. **(10)** The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies. **(11)** The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Place : Kumbakonam
Date : 08-04-2022
Authorised Officer
City Union Bank Ltd.

Regd. Office: 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, **CIN -** L65110TN1904PLC001287, **Telephone No.**0435-2402322, **Fax:** 0435-2431746, **Website:** www.cityunionbank.com

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STATE BANK OF INDIA

Authorised Officer's Details:
Name: Prasanta Kumar Biswal
Chief Manager,
E-mail ID: sbi.40564@sbi.co.in
Mobile No: 8754140264

ADDRESS OF THE BRANCH :
ASSET RECOVERY MANAGEMENT BRANCH
2nd Floor, BKG Complex, Mysore Bank Circle,
Avenue Road, Bengaluru – 560 009
Ph: 080-25943765

Appendix – IV-A
[See Proviso to rule 8(6)]
Sale notice for sale of immovable property

E-auction SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE ASSET UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 READ WITH PROVISO RULE 8 (6) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrowers / Guarantors, that the below described immovable properties mortgaged / charged to the Secured creditor, Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **State Bank of India, ARMB, Bangalore,** Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is"** basis on **12.05.2022** for recovery of **Rs.42,68,230/-** (Rupees Forty Two Lakhs Sixty Eight Thousand Two Hundred and Thirty only) as on **07-04-2022** + interest + expenses and costs, due to **State Bank of India,** Secured creditor from **1) Shri S Tarachand** S/o G.Swamy Naik, and **2) Smt. L S Vimala Devi** W/o S. Tarachand, both are residing at addresses 1386/1, 7th Main A Block, Sahakar nagar, Near Vivekanand School, Bengaluru – 560092 and also at Flat No.105, 1st Floor, Jeypee Hill Top Apartment, Bohra Layout, Gottigere Village, Bannerghatta Road, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangaluru 560 083 and also at Quarter No- 85E, Type-V, GPRA campus, Gachibowli, Hyderabad-500032 (Borrower/s). The reserve price, earnest money deposit and bid increment amount and last date for receipt of EMD will be as under:-

Property No.	Reserve Price (below which the property will not be sold)	Earnest Money Deposit	Bid increment amount	Last date for receipt of EMD
1	Rs.37,12,000/-	Rs.3,71,200/-	Rs.50,000/-	10.05.2022

Tender No: SBI/ARMB/2022-23/01

Details of immovable properties mortgaged to the Bank : All that piece and parcel of the residential Flat bearing No.105, 1st Floor, **"Jey Pee Hill Top"** having **1040 sq feet,** super built up area of the residential apartment, standing in the joint names **Shri. S. Tarachand S/o Late G. Swamy Naik and Smt. S. Vimala Devi W/o. S. Tarachand,** together with proportionate share of common area along with one covered car parking and common areas such as open space, in the land corridors, pavements, staircase as open space in land corridors, pace mount staircase, garden area pump house open space at cellar portion water storage overhead tank and sump electric room watchman's room right of way and other space enjoyed by all the building owners commonly with each other being the subject of proportionate undivided ownership among the other owners of the Apartment
All undivided right, title and interest of 272 sq feet in the properties bearing Khatha No.997 & 998, House List No.81 & 82, Village Panchayath Assessment Reg No.3451 & 3452 , measuring East to West 40 feet and North to South 60 feet, Plot No.107, Khata No. 1023, House List No.107, Assessment Reg No.3477, measuring East to West 60 feet and North to South 35 feet and Plot No.6, Khata No.1022, House List No. 106 Asst No.3476, measuring East to West 60 feet and North to South 35 feet, respectively admeasuring 6600 sq feet out of the property bearing Sy. No. 82 & 83, converted for residential property as per official memorandum vide B/Dis/ALN/SR/S57/1991-92 dated 01.10.1991 by Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru District, situated at Gottigere Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bengaluru within the limits of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike together with all rights and appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above surface, bounded on East by: Road, West by: Road, North by : Property No. 80 & 108 and South by : Property No.83 and 105.

To the best of knowledge of the Authorised Officer, there is no encumbrance on any of the above said properties. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in **https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp.**
Contact person with mobile number: 4S Resolution & Seizing Agency Sri. Manohar V and Ph: 7353931866

Date : 08.04.2022
Place: Bengaluru
Sd/- Authorised Officer,
State Bank of India, ARMB, Bengaluru.

Ram Van Gaman Path
Retracing the Footsteps of Lord Rama
Sitamarhi Harchauka
Chhatoda
Devgarh
Bishrampur
Ramgarh
Mainpat
Maheshpur
Kilkila
Laxman Paduka Gervani
Ram Jharna
Chandrapur
Chandkhuri
Shivrinarayan
Raipur
Sirpur
Turturiya
Rajim
Madhuban Dham
Rudri
Sihawa
Saptrishi Ashram
Dhanora
Narayanpur
Chitrakoot
Jagdalpur
Geedam
Kotumsar
Ramaram
Konta
2260 kms of Ancient Heritage
9 Centres of Mythology Coming Alive
Inauguration of
Restoration & Beautification Works of
Shivrinaryan Dham
& Adjoining Centres of Faith & Devotion
10th April, 2022
Vishnu Kanchi Tirth, Janjgir-Champa
32072/16
Grand Events : 8th-10th April
Presentations by Manas Mandalis from across the state
Cultural performances by eminent artists of the country
Dance drama based on the life of Mata Shabri
Performances by Mamta Chandrakar, Anup Jalota, Dilip Shadangi and Anuradha Paundwal
Shri Bhupesh Baghel
Honourable Chief Minister, Chhattisgarh
A New Chapter in Conservation of Glorious Heritage of Chhattisgarh